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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# folio

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## Study explores Canada's ghost towns

*Approximately 10,000 communities have faded away since the 1840s*

By Bev Betkowski

A University of Alberta researcher is peering into the past to discover why hundreds of communities in rural Canada fell by the wayside, and what can be learned from their quiet demise.

Dr. Debra Davidson, a professor of environmental sociology at the University of Alberta, launched a national study three years ago to find out what factors led to lack of sustainability for Canada's estimated 10,000 'ghost towns' - communities dating back to the 1840s that simply faded away.

The project started as an exploratory venture but has grown into a full-fledged study expected to wrap up in 2008. "We had a sense of frustration in regards to where current research on the topic of sustainability is headed these days," said Davidson. Instead of focusing merely on existing communities, she felt it was important to study ones that have already collapsed.

"We tend to think of ghost towns as a historic phenomenon and that's not the case. Communities are collapsing all the time."

In Alberta for instance, while the northern half of the province flourishes thanks to the booming gas and oil industry, parts of southern Alberta tell a different story, Davidson said. "We've got dozens of smaller, older agriculture-based communities that have been seeing rapid declines in populations sitting at under 1,000 people and the average age is 50-plus. There are communities in southern Alberta I would be surprised to see survive over the next 10 years."

All of the provinces have vulnerable areas, and the number of ghost towns across Canada - some of which lasted less than 10 years - is distributed fairly evenly, she added.

To get at the cause and find ways to improve viability of rural communities, Davidson and her team have just begun to analyze Canada Post data. Because there is no existing national list of ghost towns, Davidson and her team are tracing them through past post offices. "Most communities couldn't viably exist without certain things - a school, small businesses, a post office. Of the possible measures we could have used, Canada



(Above) This now-empty church was once the heart of Dorothy, Alberta, one of thousands of abandoned communities across Canada. (Right) An abandoned gas station in Gem, Alberta.

Post keeps a complete record."

Those communities are then loaded into a Geographic Information Systems computer mapping program, and by using various spatial analysis, the researchers can gauge what factors might have played a role in eventual obsolescence: distance from the nearest railroad spur, soil conditions, weather patterns, distance to market. Other historical factors associated with political and economic change are also considered. The study will then select 10 abandoned communities from each province that represent different industries, and conduct case studies.

Interesting findings have already emerged. Between Canada's beginnings as a country in 1840 and 1911, few communities died, but between 1912 and 1918 there was a dramatic increase, peaking in 1914 when 791 communities were abandoned. In total, 3,088 communities across Canada died during this seven-year period. A similar peak was identified around 1970, which is likely attributable to increasing automation in agriculture, so fewer

labourers were needed.

"These peaks indicate it's not a random process, which would also suggest that community sustainability can't just be determined by environmental factors. There are likely major political or economic events contributing to community abandonment," Davidson said.

The research is also showing that most communities died within 60 years, suggesting that "if a community can just make it beyond that third generation, it will have staying power."

The communities most at risk today appear to be those that are remote, and those with the least amount of economic diversification. "Climate change is another looming issue for rural communities," Davidson said. Increased weather variability, which affects crop harvests and forestry industries, may have economic and health impacts. Regional differences may also play a role.

"Do communities in Ontario get quicker political attention than communities in Alberta? Does NAFTA have an

effect? Is there a combination of factors that determines community viability?" asked Davidson.

On a broader level, the issue goes past rural communities to Canadian society at large, she said. "Looking at the viability of rural communities serves as an indicator of the broader health of society. We can learn about the sustainability of our social system for all of us by identifying critical thresholds beyond which societal collapse is most likely to occur - rural communities are our canaries, you could say."

While many sources of information will be used to improve understanding of these critical thresholds of community collapse, nothing can replace the first-hand accounts of former residents and their descendants, Davidson added. Anyone who would like to share a bit of their own community history can send their account to Davidson at [debra.davidson@afhe.ualberta.ca](mailto:debra.davidson@afhe.ualberta.ca).

The research is supported by the National Centres of Excellence Sustainable Forest Management Network. ■



Joannie Bachusky (courtesy of www.ghosttowns.ca)



# Steacie Fellowships support physics and chemistry research

**Dr. Todd Lowary and Dr. Andrzej Czarnecki have earned the prestigious NSERC prize**

By ExpressNews Staff

Two University of Alberta professors have been awarded 2006 Steacie Fellowships, one of Canada's top science and engineering research prizes.

Drs. Todd Lowary, with the Department of Chemistry, and Andrzej Czarnecki, with the Department of Physics, are two of six Steacie recipients announced by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada in Ottawa today. The award brings the number of Steacie Fellowship holders at the U of A to 11, second-highest in the country and the highest ranking in the West.

The fellowships allow Lowary and Czarnecki two years to conduct research full-time. Lowary's research is aimed at developing new drugs for the treatment of tuberculosis (TB) or vaccines for the prevention of the disease; Czarnecki's research

examines the nature and strength of sub-atomic interactions, leading to a more complete understanding of the physical world.

"Our present understanding of the sub-atomic world is based on the quantum field theory (QFT). It is a theory of great beauty and rich structure," said Czarnecki. "It is fascinating that this complex mathematical construction can be used to predict detailed properties of elementary particles."

Czarnecki and his colleagues have, for example, computed the magnetic field of the muon to more than 10 decimal places – a calculation that challenges the completeness of the Standard Model of particle physics. "My dream is that the comparisons of the theory with ever-more precise experiments, will eventually reveal new fundamental phenomena," said Czarnecki, admitting that working out the detailed predictions of the QFT "is somewhat tricky."

His group has also created computer infrastructure to develop algorithms and software enabling them to study different phenomena at the highest precision possible. "It's exciting to look at things with greater detail than has ever been possible before."

Lowary's research into treatments for Tuberculosis comes from a concern with the disease's devastating global impact and an interest in the bacterium itself.

"My interest in the TB problem was in part due to the importance of the disease, and also due to the unusual structures of the molecules that make up the cell wall in this organism. What I enjoy about the area I work in is the ability to make both fundamental and applied contributions."

Lowary is a member of the Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Carbohydrate Science, a research group that has created a critical mass of Canadian talent in this strategic field. His group applies some of the latest techniques of nuclear magnetic resonance



Dr. Andrzej Czarnecki (left) and Dr. Todd Lowary will spend the next two years focusing exclusively on their research endeavours.

spectroscopy, chemical synthesis and computational chemistry to examine the shape of polysaccharides that make up the cell wall of the tuberculosis bacterium.

Soon he will begin collaborating with experts from the National Research Council's U of A-based National Institute for Nanotechnology, taking advantage of their state-of-the-art equipment. He and his group hope to identify the structural motifs that are key to the formation of the protective structure of the tuberculosis bacterium's cell wall.

"I'm still in the 'disbelief' stage," Lowary said of the award. "It's quite an honour. I'm looking forward to being able to focus on research over the next two years. The Steacie Fellowship will fund a

very fundamental basic science project in my group, which complements a number of the more applied projects ongoing in the lab."

The Department of Chemistry has earned six Steacie Fellowships over the years. Czarnecki pointed out that his is the third Steacie Fellowship awarded to the Department of Physics. The first was awarded to retired professor Dr. Mohsen Razavy in 1966, the second year the fellowships were offered. At that time, only one fellowship was awarded each year. More recently, Dr. Mark Freeman earned the fellowship, in 1999.

"He is a friend and mentor to a lot of us here," Czarnecki said of Freeman. "I am proud to be following in his steps." ■

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## folio

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## Trading spaces

**Staffer, arts dean switch jobs for a day**

By Melissa Boisvert

A University of Alberta office manager has discovered that life at the top isn't all it's cut out to be.

Long-time U of A employee Barb Heagle won the opportunity to be 'dean for a day' in a silent auction held in conjunction with the Faculty of Arts' Winter Solstice event in December.

"I saw this as a wonderful opportunity to build a bridge between academics and non-academics," said Heagle.

For a \$180 donation to the United Way and the Edmonton Christmas Bureau, she was given the chance to trade her job as an office manager in the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies for a brief view from the top.

The deciding bid was a relief to Dean of Arts Dr. Daniel Woolf.

"My biggest worry was that a professor would win and I would have to teach a class on Mexican anthropology or advanced German literature," he said.

On March 6, both participants expected a busy and challenging day. Heagle began her morning by leading the meeting of the Dean's Advisory Council, where colleagues in the Dean's Office offered input to the faculty's academic plan. Next on the agenda, she met with numerous staff members, who kept her on her toes from start to finish. Just to make sure her day wasn't too easy, the staff in the Dean's office threw in a few requests for raises and created a couple of "crises" to test Heagle's mettle.

Woolf enjoyed a quieter day, poring over academic plan submissions from various programs within the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies and assisting



At the end of the day, Barb Heagle decided her own job was pretty darned good.

staff members with questions. Although he couldn't answer every query, he forged on confidently, armed with Heagle's three essentials: files, a to-do list, and a big bottle of Tylenol.

Both realized that many aspects of their positions are, in fact, very similar—the need for a strong and reliable team to keep them informed, ongoing challenges (especially in regards to space constraints and limited staffing resources) and the difficulty in finding time for individual projects.

The main difference, both participants found, seems to be a simple one: the size of their staff support team. In many cases,

Heagle needs to be more 'hands on' with projects and issues, simply because of the small number of staff in her area. Woolf, on the other hand, has more staff to manage. Consequently, he must be an expert in delegation in addition to his many other responsibilities.

In the true spirit of academia, both participants ended their days by offering their perspectives on lessons learned. Dean Woolf mused that "administration is a bit like an iceberg – you see little bits above the surface, but there is a lot more below."

Heagle's conclusion was much simpler. "I found out that my job is pretty good." ■



## Third way or wrong way?

Experts examine the Klein government's vision for health care

By Zoltan Varadi

A basic medical procedure could have saved the young woman from a lifetime of pain – unfortunately she didn't have health insurance. By the end of her ordeal she was permanently disfigured.

It's just one of "hundreds" of stories University of Alberta nursing professor Dr. Donna Wilson says she witnessed as a nurse in Texas in the 1980s.

The patient in question had recently lost her job and smashed her jaw during a car accident. In Canada, treating this woman would have been simple, said Wilson. After wiring her jaw, doctors would have kept her in the hospital a few days to ensure her breathing was normal. "A very simple operation," said Wilson.

"But, what happened down in the U.S., what they did for her, was put a Band-Aid on her chin and watched her for a couple days to make sure she didn't choke to death on the teeth that were falling down the back of her throat.

"I saw this woman about a month later, and her chin was about under her ear. It had been pushed over. This was a young woman about the age of 25. [She] literally probably wouldn't have been able to eat a cheeseburger, her face was so disfigured."

A tale as terrible as this could very well become a reality for Albertans, warned Wilson, if the Klein government gets its way—the 'Third Way' that is. This new system would combine elements of both the public and private sectors, the Tories claim, in order to manage rising health-care costs and minimize wait times for procedures.

The plan has yet to be formally presented in the legislature, but the government has released a proposal outlining its 10 tenets: 1. Putting patients at the centre; 2. Promoting flexibility in scope of practice of health professionals; 3. Implementing new compensation models; 4. Strengthening inter-regional collaboration; 5. Reshaping the role of hospitals; 6. Establishing parameters for publicly funded health services; 7. Creating long-term sustainability and flexible funding options; 8. Expanding system capacity; 9. Paying for choice and access while protecting the public system and 10. Deriving economic benefits from health services and research.

Wilson said that a common misconception of the American system is that it's completely privatized. It's not. Rather, much like the Third Way – which Wilson says is in clear violation of the Canada Health Act – it is a blend of the corporate and government sectors.

"If we get into a public system that does the absolute minimum, it looks like home care could become a 'frill,' " she said. Even nursing homes, major surgeries, emergency care and "almost anything" could be seen as an extra, as they sometimes are in the U.S.

"It we moved our public system into a private-public parallel model we would run into exactly the same problems they have down there."

Dr. John Church, a professor at the U of A's Centre for the Health Promotion Studies, is inclined to agree.

"Most visits to a physician's office are non-emergency; most elective procedures are non-emergency," he said. "So, if they stop funding all of those things, and they push that off to private insurance companies or to individuals who can't get private insurance, then the answer is yes, that will fundamentally change our health-care system. It will bring us much closer to a system like they have in the United States."

Health economist Dr. David Feeny said Albertans are right to question whether the



plan is right for the province.

"People are well-informed and appropriately skeptical," he said, adding that while he is opposed to the overall plan, it has two very distinct elements which he evaluates differently.

"They've got two horses: the first five points and the last five points, and they should get off the last five points and onto the other one and ride it. If they deliver on those five points, I think they will go down in history as another major step forward in improving the system," he said.

But while the first five points may have some merit, he notes that the principles alone aren't guaranteed to improve the health-care system. "The devil is in the details," said Feeny.

Both Wilson and Church take issue with allowing doctors to practice both in the private and public sectors, which will allow patients with cash to jump the queue for procedures. Both say such a system is rife with potential for abuse.

"When you've got private health care and private doctors, they want to sell it, because you will buy it," said Wilson.

A patient complaining to a doctor about a stomach-ache might be suffering constipation, she added, but could be sent for a CAT scan and even unnecessary exploratory surgery in the quest for extra billing.

"You see, with a for-profit motive, they do far too many surgeries," she said, alluding to her experience in the U.S. "They do far too many diagnostic tests and part of that is because they're selling health care."

Church added that the privatization model has been tried elsewhere and failed, notably in Britain under the Thatcher government. Among his concerns are phy-

**"When you've got private health care and private doctors, they want to sell it, because you will buy it."**

– Dr. Donna Wilson

sicians who would be inclined to spend more time on the private end of things than the public side, and potential conflicts of interest arising from doctors referring public patients to the same physician's private practice.

"In the States, they've had to pass all kinds of rules for what is called in the literature as 'physician self-referral,'" he said. "Physicians might refer a patient to a service in which they have a financial interest. For example, a physician might own a diagnostic and testing centre which they send their patients to; tests which may or may not be necessary. The problem is that because the physician owns the diagnostic centre, there is an incentive to send people over there to drum up business."

Neither Wilson or Church deny that issues of sustainability in the current health-care system need to be addressed – particularly given an aging populace, the potential for pandemics, and advancing technology driving up expenditures.

"Health care is the big-ticket item in all provincial budgets, the dollar amount has been creeping up no matter what we do simply because we have a changing demographic," said Church.

"While we want a publicly funded program, we must decide as a society if every time the medical profession comes up with some new life-saving procedure we are automatically going to cover it just because they've figured it out. Or do we need some way to figure out what's going to be covered and what will not?"

Wilson believes that, at least as far as advancing technology goes, if it's used wisely, it could be the means for great savings. She says the way to make health care more sustainable lies in health education or disease prevention programs, which can help nip a disease in the bud.

"Most of the new technologies have been a godsend," she said. "They have made health care cheaper and cheaper."

Wilson and Church agree that more discussion is needed with greater input from the public, and the medical community. And neither sees the Third Way as the right way for Albertans.

"The Ralph Klein way is to just say, 'Well, we're going to privatize it,' " said Church.

"Politicians are avoiding the conversation which needs to take place. If we don't have this conversation then we are going to drift into what the government of Alberta is now proposing."

And given public uproar, Feeny wonders if the proposal will come to fruition.

"It's going to take real political acumen and clout to make this work. I think the government is missing a golden opportunity to produce a substantial legacy that will be applauded and imitated by other provinces in Canada, rather than spending political energy on these issues – introducing private insurance and having physicians be able to bill in both systems." ■



# Climate change drives expansion of forestry protection research

Two leading scientists join the Forest Management Research Team

By Cynthia Strawson

Climate change in Alberta may affect forests faster than trees can adapt to evolving conditions.

"We need a science-based review of management practices," said Dr. John Spence, head of University of Alberta's Department of Renewable Resources. "Unless we adapt current practices to the new realities of climate change, wildlife, biodiversity and forest-industry investments might be at risk."

Spence's concerns are the inspiration for expanding his Forest Management Research Team through the appointment of two new scientists, Dr. Andreas Hamann, a forest geneticist and expert on climate change, and Dr. Mel Tyree, one of the world's leading experts on tree-water relations.

According to Hamann, who comes to the U of A from the University of British Columbia, the mild winter of 2005-2006 could become the norm within 40 years. "As the climate changes, our landscape will change too. Drought-related dieback of trees, increase of forest fires and pest outbreaks such as the mountain pine beetle epidemic in British Columbia will profoundly impact our forest and grassland ecosystems in Alberta."

He explained the need to have solid science to support innovative forestry and environmental conservation policies and practices that will be needed in the future. "Within a few decades our current strategies for conservation and reforestation simply won't work. To maintain healthy and productive ecosystems, we will have to start moving species to new locations as part of our reforestation and conservation programs."

Tyree is the second recent addition to the team. Tyree, who comes to the University of Alberta from the United States Forest Service and has won Marcus Wallenberg Prize for scientific achievement

"Unless we adapt current practices to the new realities of climate change, wildlife, biodiversity and forest-industry investments might be at risk."

— Dr. John Spence

in forestry, will focus on how stresses will impact forests in the next 100 years.

"Change is stressful for people as well as trees but, unlike humans, trees are slow to adapt to change," said Tyree.

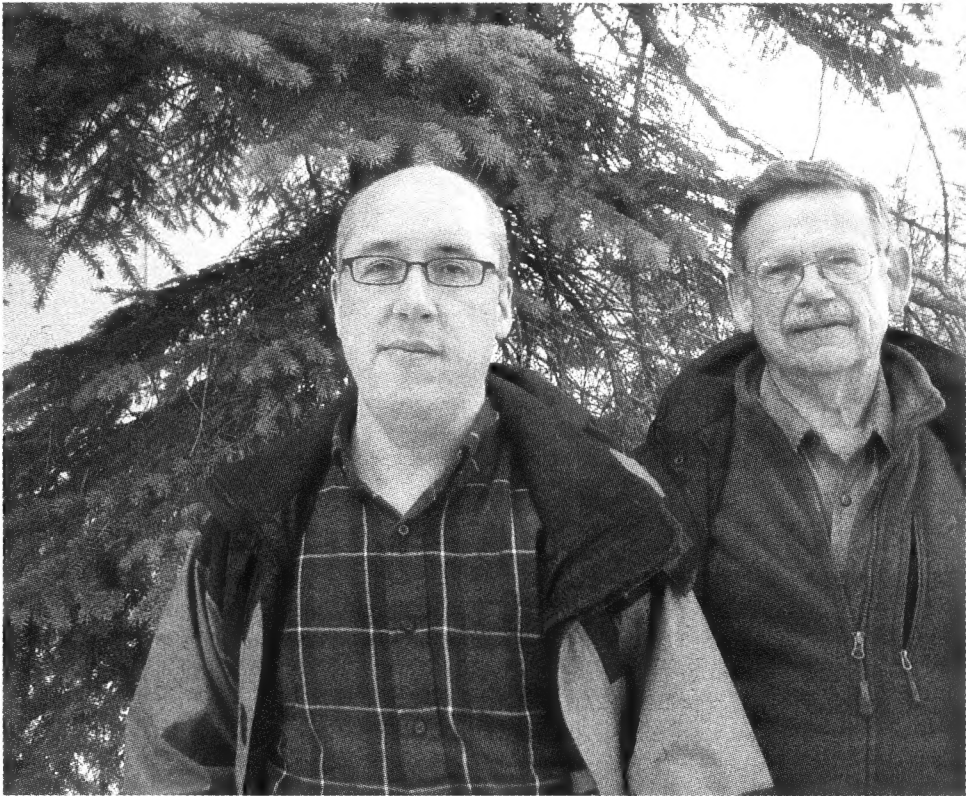
Climate change in Alberta may result in more frequent summer droughts and more frequent autumn and spring days with freeze-thaw cycles: both predictions are stressful for trees. Tyree started his studies of tree stress physiology 25 years ago by listening to sounds made by trees.

"Trees are thirsty," he said. "As water evaporates from a tree's leaves, it has to pull new water up from its roots. It pulls so hard that the water actually forms a strand. If it's really thirsty and can't get enough water during a drought, those strands will be under so much tension that they will break, making a snapping sound."

The sound is inaudible to the human ear but Tyree has recorded it using specialized digital recording technology. "If we slow the sound down digitally we can actually hear the snapping sounds. It sort of sounds like calypso drums."

This snapping of the water strand can lead to serious setbacks for trees not well adapted to drought.

Twenty-five years of research by Tyree has shown that trees which are good at transporting water are the most productive trees but are also the most vulnerable to the stresses induced by drought and frequent freeze-thaw cycles. There is a deli-



Cynthia Strawson

Forest geneticist Dr. Andreas Hamann (left) and tree-water relations expert Dr. Mel Tyree are contributing to forestry research at the U of A.

cate balance between water transportation and production of wood. "Over millions of years trees have adapted a wood structure to adapt to the stresses thrown at them, but the current acceleration of climate change might be too fast for trees to adapt by natural selection and migration," he said.

The task for the new researchers will be to identify which trees (species and individuals) have developed the best balance between maximum growth and maximum tolerance to drought and the freeze-thaw conditions. They need to identify which is the best wood structure to provide a tree with the qualities of efficient water transportation and wood production, while at the same time allowing the tree to survive

and adapt in our changing climate. "In the future we should be able to look under a microscope at the wood structure of a one-year-old tree seedling and know whether it will grow well and be resistant to the stresses of drought," said Tyree.

There is potential for trees better adapted to new climate conditions, to grow to full size in 25 years instead of 80 years. There is also potential to plant these trees on land that has already been cleared for agriculture but doesn't grow agricultural crops well. "If we can capitalize on marginal farm land, while reseeding our existing woodlands with appropriately selected trees, we can help to preserve the wildlife and plants of our native forests." ■

# Stir that manure – it's better for the environment

Researcher discovers that turning manure reduces methane emissions

By Beverly Betkowski

With manure being one of the culprits linked to global warming, it might seem wisest to let sleeping piles of it lie... but not according to University of Alberta research.

After carefully studying two test piles of beef feedlot manure in Lethbridge, U of A researcher Gurpreet Singh discovered that fewer greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were actually generated by turning the waste, rather than letting it sit untouched.

"It's a very common farming practice to let the manure sit. Huge piles of it will sit for five or six months, but it should be turned in the shape of windrows to facilitate aerobic conditions in the pile," said Singh, who completed his master's thesis on the project in December, 2005.

Currently, agri-wastes are considered the fourth largest source of GHG emissions in Canada, but most of Alberta's farm community does not include composting as part of its manure management, Singh said. At present, GHG emission reductions are of little economic consequence to producers because of the initial high investment required to buy machinery involved in maintaining aerobic conditions, and annual operating and labour costs involved in turning the compost pile.

Singh, during his research at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research facility in Lethbridge, established two 50-tonne piles of manure which were left to sit for three months, the approximate



Gurpreet Singh in his 'laboratory.'

length of time it takes for the organic waste to decompose. One of the piles, spread in a windrow shape for aeration and easy turning, was turned four times in the first month and bi-weekly in the second month. The other pile was never touched and was kept unturned throughout the composting period.

"The results showed there were significantly higher methane emissions from manure stockpile (static) as compared to compost (turned) pile, however no significant differences were found in the carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions in the two piles," Singh said. In terms of total GHG emissions during three months of composting, the turned manure pile of

manure generated almost a third less emissions than the static pile.

In addition, manure that has been properly composted creates a better-textured product that is easier to spread on the fields than stockpiled manure. "It's a uniform product that can be spread very quickly and with minimum hassle."

As well, the composted product also has lower water content, which means it is also lighter to spread, and that saves on fuel costs, Singh noted.

A drawback to the active composting management of the manure pile is cost of turning equipment - a tractor-operated attachment that is about \$25,000, Singh estimated. But he believes large beef feed-

"It's a very common farming practice to let the manure sit. Huge piles of it will sit for five or six months, but it should be turned in the shape of windrows to facilitate aerobic conditions in the pile."

— Gurpreet Singh

lot operators could afford the expense, and the benefits are significant. The direct and indirect benefits associated with applying composted manure might contribute to improved profitability as a result of reduced volume, less fuel combustion in spreading and better aggregate structure of the final composted product.

"From the perspective of climate change, manure management has a significant impact. Farmers are not encouraged to adopt this composting due to the costs of machinery involved, but if Canada wants to reduce GHG emissions under the agreement of Kyoto Protocol, composting of livestock waste might be one of the alternatives."

Singh's research was conducted in collaboration with the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Centre, Lethbridge, and Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. ■



# Religion is no excuse for human rights violations: activist

*Irshad Manji urges westerners to fight for rights in all cultures*

By Ileiren Byles

Westerners will have to get over their fear of being called racist if they're going to have any positive impact on global human rights, says one of Canada's foremost activists and authors.

"Yes, you will be called racist from time to time. Get used to it," journalist and author Irshad Manji told a standing-room-only crowd at the University of Alberta's Tory lecture hall on March 3. "Remind them that more Muslims have been tortured, raped, imprisoned and killed at the hands of Muslims than at the hands of any foreign power. Muslims are the first victims of Muslims."

Manji, who spoke as part of the U of A's Inside/Out speaker's series, listed a grim line-up of facts. "There are three 'honour kills' daily in Pakistan. In moderate Muslim countries women cannot legally marry outside the faith. In Saudi Arabia, women are the property of men, passed down from father to husband to sons to brothers," she said. "In Iran, if a woman is even suspected of lesbianism, she is draped in a clean, pristine, white sheet, lowered into a dirt pit and stoned alive."

We can't just say that because we're not part of Islam that we can't advocate for the dignity and rights of those who are, said Manji.

"The challenge for us in the West is to stop taking multiculturalism so literally," she said. "Let us, ladies and gentlemen, rediscover our spines and our minds."

Manji, however, is an unwavering defender of her own Muslim faith.

"The Qur'an is not opposed to women's rights. Mysogonist interpretations of the Qur'an are not inevitable," she said. "The Qur'an tells us there is no compulsion in religion. The Qur'an says there will always be non-believers and it's up to God to deal with them. I don't buy into this rigid interpretation that's passed off as the Qur'an. My faith is secure enough to handle questions."

"The challenge for us in the West

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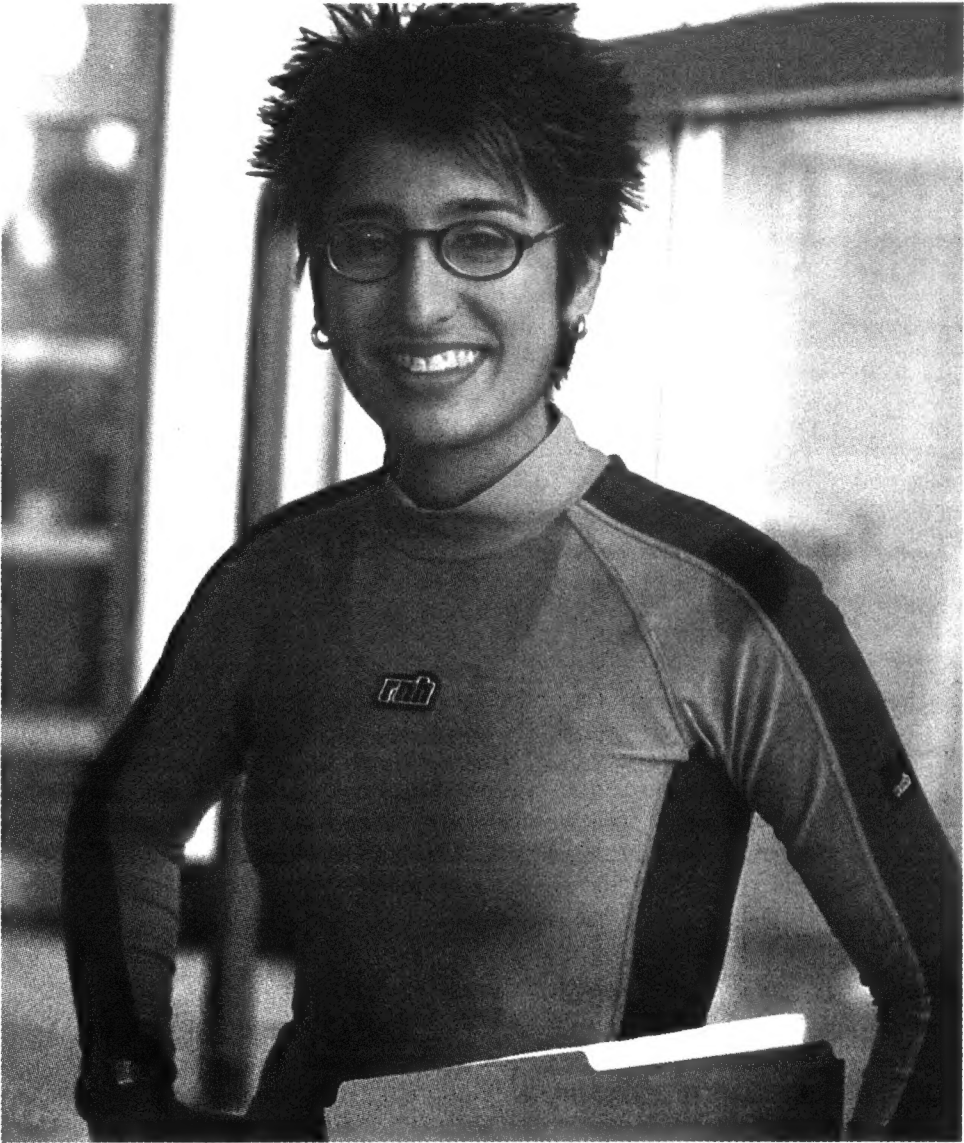
It's her love for the truth she finds in the Qur'an – a lost tradition of powerful women and freedom of thought called *ijtihad* (pronounced "ij-tee-had"). In the early centuries of Islam, thanks to the spirit of *ijtihad*, 135 schools of thought thrived, which inspired Muslims to give the world inventions from cough syrup and the university to mocha coffee and guitars, she said. "People like me are reminding other Muslims that *ijtihad* is endemic to Islam. I believe Islam is capable of pluralism."

Manji said she understands that challenging Muslims to embrace a diversity of interpretation and ideas is a big one.

"We're not simply asking people to concede this idea, we're challenging pride, self-esteem and ego," she said. "My own identity as a faithful Muslim has been challenged, even vigorously attacked, but I'm still fully confident in my faith."

But when she was younger, she did question her faith – as it was being taught to her by the male head of her madressa. So, she began to do her own reading and research into the Qur'an.

"I didn't get it. I didn't buy into it. And I asked myself, should I leave Islam as many Muslims quietly do? Wait a minute



Openly gay, Muslim activist Irshad Manji spoke to a rapt audience at the U of A earlier this month about the importance of standing up for human rights in all cultures and faiths – including Islam.

... is that the sound of Catholics quietly nodding their heads?" she laughed. "But why should my faith be punished for his inferiority as a teacher – not as a human, as a teacher? I learned I didn't have to take a back seat to any man to remain faithful to my religion."

If she had been living in a Muslim country instead of Canada during her childhood, Manji said she suspects she'd have abandoned Islam. "I would never have learned these wonderful facts. Freedom of information saved my faith in Islam." ■

# Writer-in-Residence program celebrates 30 years

*Canadian authors recall their time at the U of A*

By Mari Sasano

Edmonton is the City of Champions – not solely because of our sports teams, but because of our rich cultural life, cobbled together by pioneers who decided years ago that home-grown talent is worth supporting.

The University of Alberta's Writer-in-Residence program continues that tradition today. The nine-month residency program is the longest of its kind in Canada, and marked its 30th birthday this month. The festivities included a panel on March 10, featuring four alumni of the program.

"It's sort of unprecedented to have so many writers back at the same time, a real cross-section of writers over the past three decades. It's historically noteworthy and Edmonton should take pride in it," said U of A English professor Dr. Christine Wiesenthal, one of the organizers of the celebrations.

Writers Tim Lilburn, Karen Solie, Di Brandt and Kimmy Beach no longer write in Edmonton, but all gave credit to the program for pushing them as writers, and for introducing them to a writing community with which they maintain a connection.

Lilburn, a poet, spoke of the identity question that faces western Canadian writers, asking questions that he saw as central to writing in Edmonton or elsewhere in the West: what is it to be a western Canadian?

Who are we? Where is here? What is our relationship to the land?

As a young writer, he looked to three Canadian works to answer those questions: Robert Kroetsch's *Seed Catalogue*, Andrew Suknaski's *Wood Mountain Poems* and Barry McKinnon's *I Wanted to Say Something*.

"The feeling I get is that these poems go back to the old settler stories and try and re-say these stories. I have a feeling that these stories no longer work for us as foundational, culture-shaping stories," he said. "So what's next? I don't know what's next."

For Karen Solie, it is difficult to pin down what it means to write from a specific place. Of her time in Edmonton, the Toronto native recalled long walks in the river valley and her fear of heights while walking over the High Level Bridge,

"A lot of wandering around, punctuated by moments of abject terror," she said.

Brandt spoke highly of her time here.

"It saved my life," she said. "I was single-parenting two children on a freelance poet's income while I was trying to negotiate the fallout of my book while doing a PhD."

"I felt that I didn't have to promise anything or prove myself or show anything," she added, citing Edmonton's inclu-



Dr. Christine Wiesenthal helped organize the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the Writer-in-Residence program.

sive writing community as one of her most cherished memories.

After her time at the U of A, Brandt went on to write *Jerusalem*, beloved – short-listed for a Governor's General's award in

1995 – and *Now You Care* in 2003. Other alumni of the Writer-in-Residence program include Matt Cohen, Gary Geddes, Marian Engel, Phyllis Webb and David Adams Richards. ■



# Beer byproduct gives prof something sweet to chew on

Researcher hopes to create an artificial sweetener from distiller's grains

By Bev Betkowski

Researchers at the University of Alberta are working on a new process to make sweetener from the grain products left over from the beer-brewing process.

Dr. David Bressler is experimenting with hemicellulose, a component found in distiller's grains such as wheat and barley. By breaking it down into individual sugars and fermenting those sugars, xylitol – already on the market as a chemically produced artificial sweetener – could be made. Creating it from a natural source like grain would be more beneficial than the current manufacturing method, which is primarily done in China through a chemical process that is far less friendly to the environment.

"There is a lot of chemical waste byproduct," said Bressler, a professor of agricultural, food and nutritional science at the U of A, who's working with researchers from the university's Department of Chemical Engineering and the Department of Agricultural Food and Nutritional Science.

Currently, the only use that's been found for distiller's grains (the plant fibre residue from which hemicellulose is obtained) produced by the breweries and refineries after ethanol production, is animal feed.

"It's a decent animal feed, but there

"It's a high-value product at the end of the day.

You're taking something that is worth almost nothing and producing something that's worth a lot."

– Dr. David Bressler

is almost no value of return to the brewing and ethanol production industries. Generally, the cost of transportation is all they get out of it," Bressler said. In addition, the hemicellulose, which doesn't add any extra nutrients to the feed, isn't being used to its full capacity, even though it accounts for up to 20 per cent of the distiller's grains.

Converted into xylitol, which is prized for its cooling flavour in products like chewing gum, hemicellulose would get a second, more beneficial life. "It's a high-value product at the end of the day. You're taking something that is worth almost nothing and producing something that's worth a lot."

In their labs, Bressler and his research colleagues are working with lactic acid bacteria to change the sugar in hemicellulose to xylitol. Within three to five years, he expects to have a successful food additive that can be put into everything from diet drinks to candy bars.



Dr. David Bressler's research aims to transform waste from the beer-brewing process into an artificial sweetener.

A larger program, expanding on this area of research, is being constructed as part of the Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences, Alberta (IFASA),

in which the research partnership will grow to include Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and the Alberta Research Council ■

# Gadget helps people with spinal cord injuries regain mobility

Electrical device stimulates leg muscles to combat 'foot drop'

By Caitlin Crawshaw

The last thing Edgar Jackson saw before he hit the ground was a bent traffic sign that had been thrown into the air by the force of his motorcycle.

"I saw a flash of white, and a flash of orange, and that was a signpost with a curve marker on it breaking against my front tire. Then it contacted my head at approximately 80 kilometres an hour," he said of the 1998 accident that occurred during a routine trip to Grimshaw from Rainbow Lake, Alberta.

The subsequent spinal damage severely limited Jackson's mobility for years. He could no longer walk without dragging his leg, a condition known as 'foot drop,' and required cumbersome leg braces. Then, after volunteering for clinical trials of a new medical device called the WalkAide, Jackson said his life has changed for the better.

"It's given me my life back: my mobility, my independence. It's indescribable. If you can go from not walking to walking – it's quite an experience."

The WalkAide System was 12 years in the making but has now been approved by the distribution in the U.S. and will soon be available in Canada. Created at the University of Alberta by a team led by Dr. Richard Stein, the device uses light electrical stimulation to re-train the muscles of the leg and ankle to move properly.

"The way the WalkAide works, is that it has built-in electronic stimulation which activates some surface electrodes on the skin, so it doesn't need any implantation or surgery," said Stein, a professor in the U of A's department of physiology in the Faculty of Medicine. "And the timing of the stimulation is determined by a tilt sensor. So when the leg tilts back, it turns the stimulus on, and when the leg tilts forward, it turns it off."

The size of a walkman, the device is easily worn underneath clothing "so it's inconspicuous and can be put on by some-

"It's given me my life back: my mobility, my independence. It's indescribable.

If you can go from not walking to walking – it's quite an experience."

– Edgar Jackson

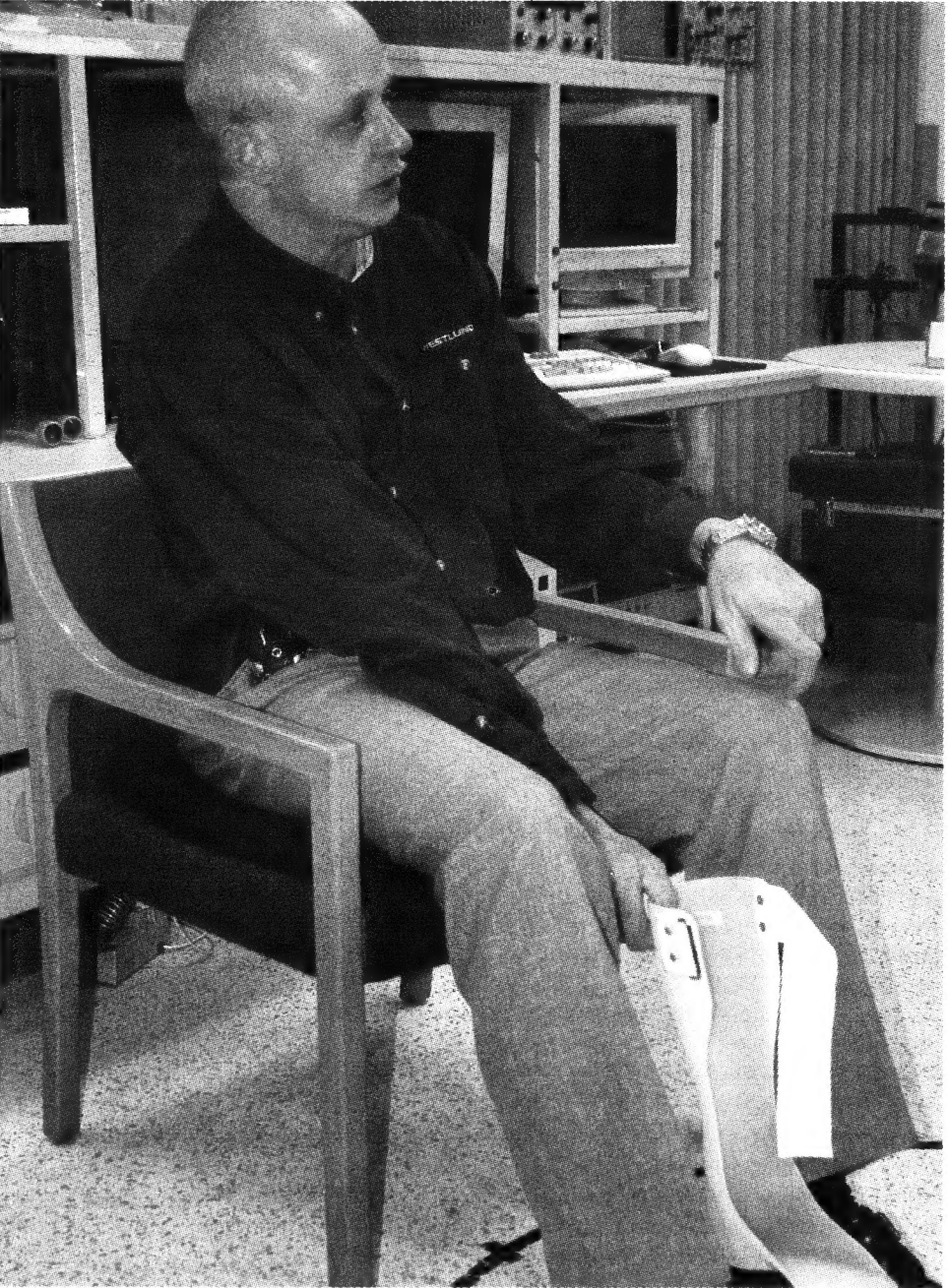
body who's had a stroke or other disorder that may only leave the function of one hand intact," added Stein.

The common device prescribed to patients with difficulty moving the foot while walking is a plastic brace called an ankle-foot orthosis, which keeps a foot from falling at an incorrect angle. "That stability will physically prevent the foot from dropping, because it holds it in a right-angle, but it has a number of disadvantages," Stein said.

Not only do patients often need to wear a large size of shoe on one foot to accommodate the brace, the brace can cause the foot to get overheated and, most importantly, doesn't allow the patient to strengthen the muscles in the leg. The WalkAide, on the other hand, stimulates the ankle and allows the user to build up the muscles as well as "the connections between the brain and the muscles," he added.

"The main difference from the conventional device is that we're strengthening the residual connections of the nerve and muscle rather than preventing them from having any function and allowing them to atrophy over time," said Stein. "Some people after using the stimulator for a period of time find that they don't need it anymore, they've built up the natural connections."

This research was supported by the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research's ForeFront program, and brought to market by Innovative Neutronics of Hanger Orthopedic Group Inc. ■



Edgar Jackson, who has found walking difficult after a motorcycle accident in 1998, says the WalkAide has dramatically improved his mobility. For years he used an awkward plastic brace (pictured above) to walk even short distances, but now a walkman-sized transmitter hidden beneath his pant leg allows him to walk longer distances and strengthen his muscles.



# Lecturer examines ‘poisonous zombie swamp’ of Serb politics

*Conspiracy theories helped Milosevic rule*

By Ileiren Byles

Marko Zivkovic said he still has mixed feelings about the death of former Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic on Saturday.

“I haven’t yet sorted out my emotions,” said the guest lecturer from Oregon’s Reed College. “But I found a couple of statements on a website that I’d like to adopt. The first is ‘We hope reincarnation doesn’t work in his case,’ and the other is ‘Our most insincere condolences.’”

Zivkovic spoke on March 13 at the University of Alberta Department of Anthropology’s speaker series. His interest in Serbian politics has given him a unique position as other former socialist states begin to join the European Union.

“There is this rising anxiety among those who find themselves labelled as post-socialist experts as those heady days of turmoil and change are over. Even nostalgia has already gone through a few cycles,” he said. “But in Serbia, progress is shelved, frozen while people still focus on the grand melodrama issues of nationalism and war crimes. Even though Slobodan Milosevic is dead . . . Serbian politics are still a slushy, poisonous, zombie swamp of eternal torpor and rotting.”

Zivkovic, a social-cultural anthropologist, planned his presentation of Serbian Garbled Genres: Conspiracy Theories and Laments as “Poetics of Opacity” before Milosevic’s death. Zivkovic examined why, despite the “spectacular failures” of Milosevic’s regime, the despot retained popular public support - focusing on the political role of conspiracy theories and the ‘lament’ as political commentary.

Conspiracy theories make up a founding characteristic of the Serbian people, which allows them to look outward for the cause of suffering instead of to the people running their country, Zivkovic said. He related a story of grandmother who finally made it to the front of a long line up for

“Conspiracy theories work on several levels. They’re almost a genre on their own. They offer up a story about the incomprehensible world forces that claim to victimhood along with this perverse sense of pride at being singled out.”

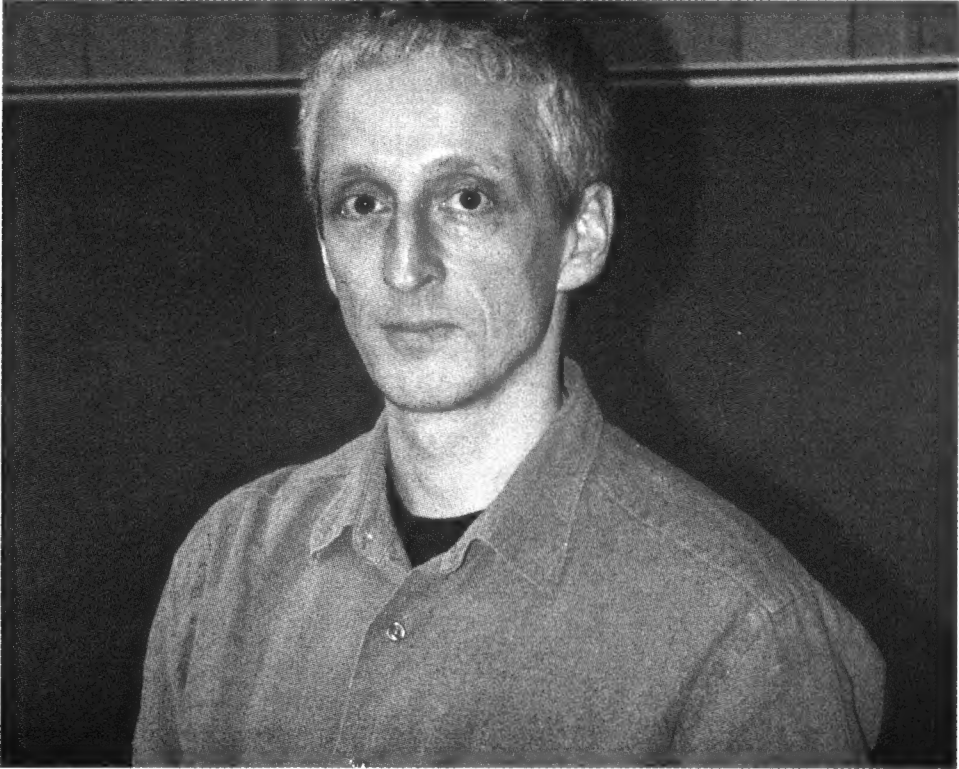
– Marko Zivkovic

food during the hyperinflation period in the early 1990s.

“The young man who was handing out the food spoke to the granny, asking her to remember the line when it was time to vote again. ‘Oh, my son,’ she replied, ‘the Germans are to blame for this,’” said Zivkovic. “That cabbage-clutching grandma invokes a whole host of conspiracy theories with that one statement. How do we explain that Milosevic repeatedly wins multi-party elections, despite the devastating effects of his rule - reduced standards of living, multiple failed wars and the reduction of his country to a pariah status? The blame is shifted to the conspiracy of Serbia’s enemies - the Vatican, Germany, the New World Order. When the NATO bombing began in 1999, it served as confirmation of the conspiracy.”

One of the major questions is whether Milosevic deliberately used and manipulated the spread of conspiracy theories to create a paranoid atmosphere as a tool, or whether he actually believed in the theories himself.

“These two possibilities do not exclude each other, and it’s hard to say which is the most frightening,” said Zivkovic, who was living in Serbia in the early 1990s.



Marko Zivkovic, a professor at Oregon’s Reed College, gave a lecture at the U of A on the problems plaguing Serbian politics.

By forcing his people to focus on the bare bones of daily life, what Zivkovic called “forced immersion in everyday life,” Milosevic’s regime was able to further manipulate public sentiment.

“When things are unstable and unpredictable in everyday life, it directly affects our general sense of well-being,” he said. “You get these cycles of feverishness and apathy, and the political effect is that governments are elected by fever to rule without challenge.

He pointed to the hyperinflation of 1992 and 1993, when inflation rates reached an unbelievable 300-million per cent - or two per cent every hour. “It’s hard to describe. It’s disorienting. It’s feverish. When you’re running from empty store to

empty store holding onto money that turns into worthless paper in minutes, you forget what normal life was like. There’s no time to challenge the regime.”

But that same willingness to embrace victimhood and conspiracy theory means that political progress is slow in Serbia, whether Milosevic sits in power or not, said Kivkovic.

“There was a brief euphoria, and then that familiar slush, mist, of Serbian politics returned,” he said. “Conspiracy theories work on several levels. They’re almost a genre on their own. They offer up a story about the incomprehensible world forces that claim to victimhood along with this perverse sense of pride at being singled out.” ■

## opinion guest column

# The Father of the Nation or the Butcher of Belgrade?

*Milosevic’s death leaves too many issues unresolved*

By Srdja Pavlovic

The passing of Slobodan Milosevic, the former Serbian and Yugoslav president, is a significant event indeed. It was reported that he died at the United Nations Detention Unit in Scheveningen (The Hague, Netherlands).

Over the last 20 years or so, Milosevic was called the father of the nation and the leader of all Serbs, as well as the partner for peace in the former Yugoslavia. He was also called a tyrant, a dictator and the Butcher of Belgrade. He died while being tried for crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Convention and the violations of the laws or customs of war.

Milosevic was the first president of any country to be accused of crimes against humanity and actually put on trial. The outcome of this trial could have had a significant impact on many levels and in different areas. In terms of international law and the indictment of political leaders, this was the test case for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The outcome of this trial could have been important for many political leaders in terms of how they gov-

ern and apply policies. A potential conviction could have had a tremendous impact on Serbia and the collective psyche of its population. By the same token, an acquittal could have had similar effect. Keeping in mind the fact that Milosevic managed to abuse the legal system and considerably bog down the process, a mistrial was indeed a possibility.

His sudden death put the stop to all this. His supporters could now claim that the ICTY did not prove Milosevic’s guilt, while the officials in The Hague could ponder over “what if” questions. His political opponents could now call for bridging the differences and embarking upon a new political course. Those who were victims of his policies will continue to live their lives regretting the slow pace of international justice. Many can breath a sigh of relief: there will be no final answer to the question of the political responsibility for the dissolution for the SFR Yugoslavia, while the threat of the potential collapse of the case against Milosevic is removed once and for all.

Concerns expressed by some analysts

about further and significant radicalization of the Serbian political scene, as a consequence of the passing of Milosevic, seem misplaced. It is worth repeating that Milosevic was neither the father of the nation nor the creator of the Greater Serbian nationalism. He was the product of such nationalism: a cunning and calculating former communist apparatchik, who used nationalism as a vehicle to acquire power. With or without Milosevic, the Serbian nation, as well as every nation in that troubled corner of the world, has yet to confront homegrown nationalisms.

What might change, however, is the attitude toward the ICTY of those moderate voices in the Serbian politics. The death of Milosevic is an embarrassment for the officials of the ICTY and those in charge of the United Nations Detention Unit in Scheveningen. It raises a number of unpleasant questions such as those about the quality of the medical care available in this facility and the level of supervision of detainees, for example. Just six days before the guards discovered Milosevic’s lifeless body, another high-profile prisoner com-

mitted suicide. Milan Babic, the war-time political leader of the Croatian Serbs, and the former president of the self-declared SAO Krajina, hanged himself in his cell.

After the passing of Milosevic under the “watchful eye” of the tribunal officials and prison guards, many ordinary Serbs are growing increasingly suspicious of the ICTY. For many of them a trip to The Hague now sounds more like walking to the gallows rather than presenting one’s case before an impartial jury. It might be even more difficult now to persuade and pressure the government in Belgrade to arrest two of the most famous alleged war criminals, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. The international community might be well advised to re-examine earlier proposal about setting up war crimes tribunal in Belgrade, so that the villains of the Yugoslav wars could be tried at home.

(Dr. Srdja Pavlovic is an expert on the Balkan histories and cultures, and on the politics of the former SFR Yugoslavia. He teaches in the Department of History and Classics and can be reached at: srdjapavlovic@yahoo.com .) ■





## Dancing to a traditional beat

*Faculty of Extension staffer has a passion for Romanian dance*

By Amber Marechal

Kristine Kliza's new passion is her baby girl, but that doesn't mean she won't continue to indulge in her other true passion: Romanian folk dancing.

Originating from traditional Balkan customs, Romanian dance holds a strong appeal for Kliza, who's always embraced her heritage.

"I am of Romanian descent and the Romanian culture has always been a huge interest for me," said the program assistant for the University of Alberta's English Language Program (ELP).

Even from a young age, Kliza knew she wanted dance to be a huge part of her life.

"I would see people perform and long for the day I could join," she said, referring to membership in the adults-only Balada Romanian Folk Dance Ensemble. Kliza's parents, in fact, helped start the dance troupe in Edmonton, but wouldn't allow her to dance in the group until she was 15.

Since then, her life has been enriched by her participation in the group.

It's clear her passion runs deep. "I love every aspect of it. I love learning; I love practicing. I rarely miss a rehearsal because I enjoy it so much."

An avid member for 15 years, Kliza has also been the president for the past five.

"It's fun to be a dancer who just shows up and dances, but it's definitely a challenge to be someone who makes decisions for the group and carries the group forward in terms of progress and change," she said.

Romanian dance, said Kliza, is unique in its variance from region to region.

"Depending on the region, you'll see different types of footwork or formations. It depends on the region of Romania where it's from; each region has its own characteristics."

And it's not only the dancing itself that she adores. Kliza said the close relationships she's developed with the members in her dance group have also been rewarding.

"The friends that I've made in the group, they're like family. Because I was 15 and most of the group members were a bit older, I was always the young kid that everyone looked after, and that was always something very special," Kliza explained.

One example of that protective instinct among older members came about at the Heritage Festival in Edmonton in 1998.

"I was doing a duet with my partner. At the end of the dance I had to run around him to exit the stage, and I misjudged the depth of the stage, and I ended up sliding down the front of the stage. I actually slid off and down the front it," she said.

"I basically ran back behind the stage and had a quick costume change. But the other dancers were saying 'No Kristine, sit down. You're not going on again.' I was fine physically, but they were worried."

Fortunately, not all of her dancing experiences were so embarrassing. She speaks passionately of her first trip to Romania in 1992.

"The first time I performed in Romania – it was amazing. I felt so in touch with my family history and my roots." She admitted that she wasn't sure what the reception would be like.

"It's unusual for them to see other people doing Romanian dance outside of their country. It's not always – or often – received warmly, but the particular crowd we had at that time was very warm."

In terms of the dance and technique, Kliza said her skills have sharpened as the years have passed. "It's definitely easier to catch on to things now, now that I've learned the rhythms and the general footwork. The longer I'm involved, the stronger my commitment."

After four years working at the U of A's Faculty of Extension, Kliza is now on maternity leave until January 2007. But even though she has a new daughter and new commitments in her life, she doesn't



envision her involvement in the dance group declining any time soon.

"I'll dance as long as I physically can and as long as I'm in Edmonton. I'll always be affiliated with the group. When I can no longer dance, I intend to still be a member and help the group thrive." ■

(Top) At the 2003 Edmonton Heritage Festival (Kliza is fourth from the right).

(Middle) Kliza performs with Joseph Sumavra at the 2002 Edmonton Heritage Festival.

(Bottom) Kliza and her fellow dancers take a breather to pose for a photo at the 2005 Edmonton Heritage Festival.



# The space between two knowledge systems

**Aboriginal scholar Willie Ermine warns against a mono-cultural knowledge system**

By Dawn Ford

A space exists where there is refuge from the undercurrents that divide nations, according to a First Nations University of Canada ethicist and researcher.

The heart of destructive undercurrents exists in recurring viewpoints that portray one model of society, such as the western narrative, Willie Ermine told delegates at the Indigenous Scholars' Conference, which took place March 8-10 at the University of Alberta.

He referred to the story of the west as an embedded consciousness that transcends generations and institutions.

"The construction of western knowledge has constructed our image. The story of the west is what our children are getting. The danger is that there is a mono-cultural point of view about how humans are supposed to be, and this does not create an optimal condition," he said. "This is not God-given but indoctrinated into people. They were not born with unethical behaviour; the system constructed it."

Ermine's work focuses on the ethical practices of research involving indigenous peoples, with particular interest in the ethical space, a term coined by Roger Poole in 1972. For Ermine, this space creates a contrast by dislocating and isolating two disparate knowledge systems and cultures.

"There have been lots of good attempts by sincere people who have tried to build bridges, but these undercurrents are powerful and keep washing away good intentions," said Ermine. "When we have had breaches and ruptures in the past, it is because we have failed to look at the area in between our two worlds. It is in this ethical space that we can understand one another's knowledge systems."

Ermine referred to the grand institution of western learning as a place where students become entrapped in one world

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an optimal condition."

— Willie Ermine

view. "The west needs to detach from this world view to see what it is doing by presenting a mono-cultural monopoly," he said.

He presented the two knowledge systems as alternate forces such as natural versus artificial contexts, oral tradition versus written tradition, holistic versus a physical world view and asked delegates to imagine the possibilities if society could learn from both.

"My grandparents knew how to get medicine from a plant. They talked to the plant, studied it. Our people knew how to move and work with living entities that are intelligent in nature," he said. "It's a gift to walk in two worlds, but also a responsibility. Ethical space does not exist unless you look at it, affirm it."

Hosted by the U of A's Department of Educational Policy Studies, the Indigenous Scholars' Conference highlighted aboriginal and indigenous scholarship, perspectives and research approaches in advanced education across Canada and internationally. ■



Caitlin Cranshaw

Scholar Willie Ermine spoke at the University of Alberta's Indigenous Scholars' Conference this month.

# New text brings First Nations history into the classroom

**Historian creates first-ever aboriginal history textbook for teens**

By Ileiren Byles

For the first time, the history of Canada's aboriginal people has been put into a form that can be used in classrooms across the country.

The new textbook, *A Concise History of Canada's First Nations*, was adapted from a larger work by Dr. Olive Dickason, professor emerita with the University of Alberta's Department of History and Classics. The original book, *Canada's First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples from Earliest Times*, was a bit overwhelming for junior high and high school classes, said Nancy Gibson, former director of the Canadian Circumpolar Institute and co-principle investigator with the Alberta ACADRE Network that partnered with CCI Press on the project.

"This is a story that came about because people in the community were saying they really needed a history book," she said. "Olive's was the only one that was available, but we were asked if we couldn't make it just a little more accessible."

With the help of a team of writers and editors, the larger text was condensed into a volume that was launched earlier this month. But 'condensed' doesn't mean 'reduced,' said Moira Calder, an editor with the U of A-based International Institute for Qualitative Methodology.

"We didn't want to dumb the book down. We wanted to keep the subtlety and depth of the material," she said, crediting Dickason for helping maintain the integrity of the material. "Her analysis and dissection of every word in this book was an education for me. I miss those conversations because I always came away richer."

The book is published by Oxford University Press. CCI Press at the University of Alberta is a distributor.

Dickason, who celebrated her 86th birthday in conjunction with the book launch, said the project was an extension of the passion she felt for the original book.

"Most of my adolescent and teen years, I spent up North on the trap lines and you learn a view of life that you certainly don't get in the cities and in the schools. When I first met Canadian history, aboriginal history was just dismissed," she said.

But Canadian history did teach Dickason that the country's European history began when whaling and the fur trade attracted the interests of colonists - both industries that were entirely dependent on the First Nations.

"Whaling and fur trapping depended very, very strongly on aboriginal expertise. In fact, both are based on aboriginal expertise," she said. "This country is deeply founded and deeply linked with aboriginals. When I realized that the courses being taught didn't refer to this at all, I got very disturbed."

Dickason single-mindedly attacked the shortfall, writing *The Myth of the Savage and the Beginnings of French Colonialism in the Americas*, *The Law of Nations and the New World* and *Canada's First Nations*. That her passion and knowledge is now in a form that is accessible to young students is a gift, said Fay Fletcher, a professor with the U of A's Faculty of Extension.

"It's surprising how many students I meet at the university who still lack knowledge of First Nations history," Fletcher said. "The hope is that in about five to



Ileiren Byles

Dr. Olive Dickason accepted the gift of an aboriginal blanket at the launch of her book, *A Concise History of Canada's First Nations*.

eight years, students will be coming to the university having had some contact with this text. Right now, we're filling a gap."

Whoever turns to *A Concise History of Canada's First Nations* for information, Dickason hopes her message comes through.

"I wanted this textbook to offer the aboriginal people the recognition and honour that is their due as the basic founders of this country," she said. "This is an attitude I hope will be present in those who are studying this subject and this book. ■



# Computer scientist sorts out confusable drug names

Program helps reduce prescription errors

By Ryan Smith

Was that Xanax or Xanax? Or maybe Zantac? If you're a health care professional you'd better know the difference - mistakes can be fatal.

An estimated 1.3 million people in the United States alone are injured each year from medication errors. The U.S. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has been working to reduce the possibilities of errors, such as a documented case in which a patient needed an injection of Narcan but received Norcuron and went into cardiac arrest.

A few years ago, the FDA turned to Project Performance Corporation (PPC), a U.S. software company, to ensure they don't approve the names of new drugs that may easily be confused with any one of the more than 4,400 drugs that have already been approved.

PPC looked at the problem and then, based on a tip from a professor at the University of Maryland, turned to Dr. Greg Kondrak, a professor in the University of Alberta Department of Computing Science.

"During my PhD research, I wrote a program called ALINE for identifying similar-sounding words in the world's languages. The program incorporates techniques developed in linguistics and bioinformatics," Kondrak said. "At the time some people criticized it because they felt it wouldn't ever have a practical application."

PPC analyzed Kondrak's program and felt it might help with their project. Kondrak gave them ALINE and then created a new program for them - BI SIM, which analyzes and compares the spelling of words.

PPC combined Kondrak's programs

"When you do basic research sometimes you don't know how it might become of use, but if this software helps to reduce even just 10 per cent of prescription errors in the U.S. that translates into helping a lot of people and it's very satisfying to contribute to that."

- Dr. Greg Kondrak

into a system that the FDA has been using for the past two years to analyze proposed drug names and rank them in terms of confusability, both phonetically and orthographically, with existing drugs.

"The FDA used to have dozens of people scouring the lists of names to check if the proposed ones were too similar to any of them. This wasn't a good use of resources and it wasn't always effective - people make mistakes," Kondrak said. "But now one person using PPC's system can identify sound-alike and look-alike drug names with great accuracy in a matter of seconds."

Drug companies covet finding good, short drug names that are easy to remember, Kondrak said, adding, "the FDA and other drug agencies need to balance this against confusing the names with existing ones - it's a serious problem."

Kondrak co-authored a paper on this



Dr. Greg Kondrak has created a system to help patients differentiate between drug names.

topic that was recently published in the journal Artificial Intelligence in Medicine. Earlier, he gave a presentation to Health Canada officials, who are interested in following the FDA's lead in addressing the problem of confusing drug names.

A number of linguists and computer scientists are also now using Kondrak's ALINE for various purposes. He is pleased his software, once criticized as being useless, is much in demand, though he doesn't charge anyone to use it.

"If anyone asks for it, I just give it to

them. I was a funded researcher, and I look at it as my responsibility to share what I've learned and what I've done," Kondrak said. His research was funded by Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

"When you do basic research sometimes you don't know how it might become of use, but if this software helps to reduce even just 10 per cent of prescription errors in the U.S. that translates into helping a lot of people and it's very satisfying to contribute to that." ■

## talks & events

Submit talks and events to Lorraine Neumayer by 12 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm>. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at [www.events.ualberta.ca](http://www.events.ualberta.ca).**

### UNTIL APR 6 2006

**Visit the University of Alberta's Observatory** Every Thursday evening the observatory is open to the public. Everybody is welcome and admission is free. Star clusters, planets, nebulae and the Moon will be visible through our telescopes. We are located on the roof of the Physics Building. Take the elevators to the 6th floor and walk up the final set of stairs. 8 p.m. Physics Building 7th floor and rooftop. <http://www.phys.ualberta.ca/research/astro/observ.php>

### UNTIL MAR 22 2006

**Indigo: African Adire Cloth Interpretation, work by textile design students from the Department of Human Ecology** Opening Reception: Friday, March 10, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Gallery hours: 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m., Monday to Thursday; 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Saturday. Traditionally, indigo resist-dyed textiles played important spiritual and social roles in the daily lives of Africans. Textiles were markers of wealth, status, and gender. The textile lengths featured in this exhibition were designed and executed by textile design students in the Department of Human Ecology at the University of Alberta. Extension Centre Gallery, 2nd Floor, University Extension Centre, 8303-112 St. <http://www.extension.ualberta.ca>

### UNTIL MAR 18 2006

**Model Homes: Heather Huston** Model Homes by Heather Huston is the final visual presentation for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Printmaking. Join us for the Opening Reception on Thursday, March 9, 7-10 p.m. Regular Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturday, 2-5 p.m. The Gallery is closed Sunday, Monday, and statutory holidays. Fine Arts Building Gallery, room 1-1 Fine Arts Building, University of Alberta campus, 112 Street and 89 Avenue, Edmonton.

**The Alcuin Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada** The Alcuin Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada showcases books published in 2004. Regular Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 2-5 p.m. The Gallery is closed Sunday, Monday, and statutory holidays. Fine Arts Building Gallery, room

1-1 Fine Arts Building, University of Alberta campus, 112 Street and 89 Avenue, Edmonton.

### MAR 17 2006

**Department of Psychology's 20th Annual Joseph R. Royce Research Conference** The Joseph R. Royce Research Conference is a full day event held each winter term during which faculty, post-doctoral fellows, graduate, and undergraduate students present papers and posters describing current research activities. In addition to a keynote speaker (David Uttal, Northwestern University) there will be 16 oral presentations (divided among 4 sessions) and over 30 poster presentations. Everyone is welcome. There is no registration fee. This event is sponsored by the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Science, and the Office of the VP(Research) 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. BioSci Building CW410. <http://www.psych.ualberta.ca/~royce/>

**University Teaching Services (UTS)** Talking to the Media as if Teaching Matters In this age of instant communication and mass media, it is essential to have some media relations basics at your fingertips, from how to prepare for an interview and get your message across to what to be on the look out for during an interview. Tips on how to incorporate the important connection between your teaching and research are discussed. A media relations specialist in Public Affairs will introduce you to some of these basics and answer any nagging media questions you may have. Presenter: Sandra Halme, Public Affairs. 12 - 1 p.m. CAB 219. <http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts>

**Dear Employer - How do I write better work search letters?** Learn how to effectively write, format and target cover letters, networking letters and follow up letters. Find out how and when you should use these letters in your work search. Free of charge. Drop into CaPS office, 12:05 - 12:50 p.m. 2-100 SUB. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

**Curriculum & Pedagogy Institute Seminar: Postcolonial Perspectives in Educational Research** Curriculum and Pedagogy Institute Seminar Series presents: Engaging with the "Other" through Postcolonial and Media Texts Presenters: James Nahachewsky (PhD Candidate) and Jyoti Mangat (PhD Candidate) Department of Secondary Education All are welcome! Refreshments will be

provided. 2 p.m. 107 Education South Education Centre . <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/education/pdfs/CPIWinter2006rev.pdf>

**Making the Scene: la traduction du théâtre d'une langue officielle à l'autre au Canada (Theatre translation from one official language to the other in Canada) by Professor Louise Ladouceur** Scientific presentation of the book, 3 p.m., book launch, 4 p.m., followed by reception at the Grand Salon Free admission. RSVP [mona.liles@ualberta.ca](mailto:mona.liles@ualberta.ca). 3 - 6 p.m. Campus Saint-Jean, room 1-07, Pavillon Lacerte, 8406 - 91 St.

**Alberta Ingenuity Media Master Class with Jay Ingram** Join Jay Ingram for an entertaining master class on science in the media. Five selected scientists will present their research as though they were informing the public, and will be critiqued by Jay and the audience. This event is open to all members of the university research community. Jay

Ingram is an eminent Canadian science journalist and co-host of Daily Planet on Discovery Channel, which he helped to establish ten years ago. He was host of the CBC radio science show Quirks and Quarks for 12 years, and has written nine popular books on science. Registration is required. 3 - 5 p.m. 236 TELUS Centre for Professional Development. <http://www.albertaingenuity.ca/events.php>


**E.H. Strickland Memorial Lecture and Banquet** The Department of Biological Sciences welcomes Dr. Ring T. Cardé, Chair of Entomology at the University of California, Riverside and holder of the endowed professorship the Alfred M. Boyce Chair in Entomology, as this year's Distinguished Strickland Memorial Lecturer. Lecture "Finding an Odour Source in a Turbulent World: Strategies of Moths and Mosquitoes" takes place at 3 p.m. in Room 3-27, Earth Sciences Building. Banquet takes place at the Faculty Club at 6 p.m. Contact Dr. Heather Proctor at [hproctor@ualberta.ca](mailto:hproctor@ualberta.ca) by

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March 13 for banquet tickets. <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/facilities/strickland/?Page=2439>

**Physics Colloquium “Challenges and Applications** Physics Colloquium, by Dr. Tony Lui, The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory Laurel, Maryland Abstract: This presentation provides a brief glimpse of two major space disturbances in the magnetosphere that have relevance to our societal functions with our growth in the utilization of space technology and assets. These disturbances are called magnetic storms and magnetospheric substorms. The applications include the research on auroral and substorm-like phenomena in most other planets, analogy between substorms and solar flares, avalanche and complexity physics in nonlinear dynamics. \* Coffee and cookies will be available at 3:00 p.m. outside of V128. Department colloquia are intended to benefit all students and staff. 3:15 - 4 p.m. V128 Physics Building. <http://www.phys.ualberta.ca/>

**Professor F Jamil Ragep, EFF Distinguished Visiting Speaker** The role of Religion in Islamic Science. 3:30 - 5 p.m. L-2 Humanities Centre.

**Seeing the big picture: Maps, hands, and the mental representation of space** This is the keynote presentation for the Joseph R. Royce Research Conference. Everyone is welcome. There is no registration fee. Research on spatial cognition has often been approached from a comparative perspective, focusing on similarities between human and non-human species. I will argue that despite the value of this perspective, it also has limitations. The human capacity for symbol use profoundly alters how we think about and communicate spatial information and how spatial cognition develops. For example, the use of maps affects the development of children’s conceptions of large-scale space. 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. BioSci Building CW410. <http://www.psych.ualberta.ca/~royce/>

**Ribbon Rouge** The Kamit African Caribbean Society, a student group at the University of Alberta, presents Ribbon Rouge, an evening of fashion, art, and jazz, with silent auction, to raise funds for HIV/AIDS relief in Africa. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$15 general admission. All funds raised from this event will be donated to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Dinwoodie Lounge, Students’ Union Building.

**West Meets East: African Canadian Experiences** Dr. George Elliott Clarke will give a reading of his latest book “Illustrated Verses” at Stanley Milner public library, Sir Winston Churchill Square. As part of a double bill emphasizing the heterogeneous experiences of African Canadian communities in Canada this evening event includes a performance by Pat Darbasie (MFA Directing) of her one woman play: Ribbon. 7 - 9 p.m. Stanley Milner Library Theatre, Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton.

## MAR 18 2006

**The Stoic Ethic of Detachment** Dr. Martin Tweedale, Professor Emeritus, Philosophy. 2 - 3:30 p.m. Stanley A. Milner Library (Basement in the Edmonton Room), 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square.

**The University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble with Northern Alberta Honor Band** The University of Alberta Symphonic Wind Ensemble with Northern Alberta Honour Band. William Street, Director. 7 p.m. Arts Building/ Convocation Hall.

## MAR 19 2006

**Jablonski Endowment Fund Raising Recital** Jablonski Endowment Fund Raising Recital. Magdalena Adamek, piano. Polonaise-Fantasy, Op 61; Grande Valse Brillante, Op 18: Chopin. Funerailles: Liszt. Fantasy in C Minor, K475: Mozart. Sonata, Op 26: Bartók. Bagatelles, Op 126: Beethoven. 7:30 p.m. Arts Building/Convocation Hall.

## MAR 20 2006

**Healthy Eating on Campus** A dynamic presentation by Peer Nutrition Educators about how to maintain healthy eating habits here at the University of Alberta. Everyone is welcome! 1– 2 p.m. CAB 373.

**Noon Hour Organ Recital** Noon Hour Organ Recital. A variety of organ repertoire played by students, faculty and guests of the University of Alberta Department of Music. 12 p.m. Arts Building/ Convocation Hall.

**University Teaching Services (UTS)** Creating a Positive Assessment Environment This presentation examines the place of assessment in the teaching/learning process and presents strategies for building a stronger bridge between teaching and testing. The principles that underscore a positive assessment climate are identified and assessment techniques, which serve to enhance student motivation and engagement with the course content, are discussed. Presenter: Anthony Marini, University of Calgary. Please register for this session at [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts). 3 - 4:30 p.m. CAB 243.

**Recruitment Seminar** Dr. Kerry Laing, Department of Pathobiology, University of Washington, will present a seminar entitled

“Recognizing the enemy: Receptors of the innate and adaptive immune systems of vertebrates.” Laing is a candidate for the Assistant/Associate Professor position in Comparative Immunology in the Department of Biological Sciences. Hosted by Dr. Brad Magor. 4 - 5 p.m. M 145 Biological Sciences Building. <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/n>

**Electrical & Computer Engineering Open House & Program Information Evening** Electrical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Engineering Physics, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering and Nanoengineering programs at the University of Alberta. The Department will be holding an Open House for all interested students and the general public. This will include displays, Q&A sessions with professors, current and former students, lab tours and research seminars. Free food and pop will be served. 5 - 7 p.m. Solarium Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC).

**75th CSC Public Lecture** The 75th CSC Lectureship Committee is proud to present a public lecture, “Chemistry’s Essential Tension: The Same and Not the Same” by Dr. Roald Hoffmann, Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters at Cornell University and 1981 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. A generously illustrated view of chemistry and its overlap with the arts. 8 - 9:45 p.m. Edmonton City Hall.

## MAR 21 2006

**75th CSC Lecturer** The 75th CSC Lectureship Committee is proud to present “All the Ways to Have a Bond” by Dr. Roald Hoffmann, Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters at Cornell University and 1981 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. The Lecture will be held in E1-60 Gunning and Lemieux Chemistry Centre on Tuesday, March 21 at 9:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be served. 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. E1-60 Gunning and Lemieux Chemistry Centre, University of Alberta.

**Planning your summer vocation** Learn how CaPS can help you with your search for summer work, along with some of the most effective ways to find summer employment. Summer employment programs will also be discussed. Free of charge. Drop into CaPS office, 2-100 SUB 12:35 - 1:20 p.m. 2-100 SUB. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

**12th Eric J Hanson Lecture** Geraint Johnes, Professor of Economics Management School Lancaster University, UK will present the topic “Education and Economic Growth.” Reception to follow. RSVP [ipe@ualberta.ca](mailto:ipe@ualberta.ca) 3:30 p.m. Prairie Room, 2nd floor, Lister Centre. <http://www.ualberta.ca/economics>

**19th Annual Colter Lecture** Professor Cynthia Kenyon from the Department of Neuroscience, University of California, San Francisco, will present the 19th Annual Colter Lecture: “Genes from the Fountain of Youth.” Professor Kenyon has received many honors: an NIH Merit Award, an American Cancer Society Professorship, the King Faisal International Prize for Medicine, the American Association of Medical Colleges Award for Distinguished Research, and La Fondation IPSEN Prize. She is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is now the director of the Hillblom Center for the Biology of Aging at UCSF. 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. 2-27 Medical Sciences Building.

**University Teaching Services (UTS)** Challenging Evaluation: Lessons from Community Service-Learning Community Service-Learning (CSL) gives students the opportunity to participate in the activities of a community agency or social action group as part of a university course. After a brief overview of the CSL program in the Faculty of Arts, some of the challenges in evaluating the outcomes and experiences of CSL students and other participants in the program are addressed. Presenters: Dr. Sara Dorow, Acting Director, and Lorraine Woollard, Administrative Director Community Service-Learning Please register for this session at [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts). 3:30 - 5 p.m. CAB 243.

**First Year Student Information Evening: Environmental Engineering** The First Year Student Information Evening provides first year students a chance to meet and interact with industry representatives, current students, recent graduates and faculty to find out more about the Environmental Engineering program and career stream choices in Environmental Engineering. 5 - 8 p.m. 1-017 Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC).

**The Colour of Fear** Join us International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to view The Color of Fear, a Lee Mun Wah film about racism. Following the film you are invited to participate in a discussion led by Satya Das, author and award-winning human rights advocate. Free Admission. Light refreshments will be served. Event co-hosted by the Office of Human Rights, the Graduate Students’ Association and the U of A Students’ Union. 5 - 7:30 p.m. Lister Centre, Aurora Room.

**75th CSC Lecture-Poetry Reading** The 75th CSC Lectureship Committee is proud to present a reading of original poetry by Dr. Roald Hoffmann, Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters

at Cornell University and 1981 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. Dr. Hoffmann has bridged the two cultures of science and the humanities, by setting his poetry and plays in the sciences. Reservations are required. Please RSVP to [GelmiL@macewan.ca](mailto:GelmiL@macewan.ca). Light refreshments will be served. 8 p.m. Knoppers Hall, The King’s University College, 9125 50th St., Edmonton, AB.

## MAR 22 2006

**New Staff Orientation to the University** All new academic and support staff are invited to attend orientation to the university on Wednesday, March 22, 2006, 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. This general orientation will acquaint you with the business of the U of A. Hear what U of A leaders have to say about our mission and vision. Learn about campus life and resources to support you professionally and personally. Find out about staff associations and HR services. If you have worked at the U of A for awhile, but have not attended a previous orientation, you are welcome to join us at this session. Advance registration is required. Register online at The Learning Shop: [www.learningshop.ualberta.ca](http://www.learningshop.ualberta.ca). 8:30 a.m. Lister Conference Centre, Maple Leaf Room. <http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca/Orientation/>

**Biotransformation of Selenium in Drainage Water and Sediments** Dr. Tariq Siddique, NSERC-PDF is presenting a seminar on “Biotransformation of Selenium in Drainage Water and Sediments.” 11 a.m. M-137, Biological Sciences Building. <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/micrb606/>

**PHS Grand Rounds** Guest Speaker: Dr. Paul Gustafson, Professor, Department of Statistics, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. “Bayesian Methodology for Epidemiology.” 12 - 1 p.m. Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. <http://www.phs.ualberta.ca>

**Making Healthy Choices While Eating Out** Heidi Bates, a Registered Dietitian and Nutrition Professor will guide participants to find strategies to eat healthy at restaurants. Everyone is welcome! 1 - 2 p.m. General Services Building 2-11.

**University Teaching Services (UTS)** Microteaching for the IS Program The Instructional Skills (IS) Program offered through University Teaching Services allows participants to demonstrate their teaching skills to peers. Participants with a minimum of 25 hours of pedagogy are invited to give a 10-minute microteaching presentation on a topic of interest to and understandable by a diverse audience. Presentations must be structured (introduction, body, conclusion) and rehearsed to fit the 10-minute time slot. If you wish your presentation to be videotaped, please bring a blank VHS tape. As this is a requirement of the IS Program, registration and attendance are compulsory. The IS Program requires five participants per microteaching event. Presenters: IS Program Participants Please register for this session at [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts). 1 - 3 p.m. CAB 219.

**University Teaching Services (UTS)** Formative Evaluation and Assessment The timing of assessment of student learning or the evaluation of courses should occur early enough for improvement during the term. This session explores formative evaluation and assessment techniques and proposes some strategies that add value to student learning. Presenters: Stanley Varnhagen, Faculty of Extension, and Myrna Sears, Faculty of Extension Please register for this session at [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts). 3 - 4:30 p.m. CAB 243. <http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts>

**Acing the Interview (all disciplines)** The focus of this workshop is on how to prepare effectively for a job interview and how to respond to interview questions. Results from our employer survey about their practices and expectations regarding the interview process are included in this workshop. 5 - 6:30 p.m. 4-02 SUB. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

**New Play Reading: “Should’ve”** This event is the inaugural reading of a new play, “Should’ve” by poet, playwright and Nobel Laureate in Chemistry Roald Hoffmann. The play will “contrast a biologist who commits suicide, consumed by a misuse by others of a piece of work he did, with his daughter, who is unconcerned about the implications of her work, and her friend, who cannot conceive that art can hurt people.” 8 p.m. Theatre N102, The King’s University College, 9125-50 St.

## MAR 23 - MAR 26 2006

**Bears Hockey** Telus University Cup. CIS National Championship, Clare Drake Arena, Van Vliet Physical Education and Recreation Centre. [www.cubsclub.ualberta.ca](http://www.cubsclub.ualberta.ca)

## MAR 23 2006

**Centre for Neuroscience - Dr. Karim Fouad** Title: TBA 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. 207 HMRC.

**Broadus Lecture Series: Lecture 1: “Talking in Fleet Street: Victorian Feminism and the Serial Press”** What did it mean for Victorian feminism to have a feminist writing in the established serial press? Exploring the links between Victorian feminism and the established press, these two lectures open up our understanding of Victorian feminism and its political workings, urging us

to reconsider what feminism looked like in the nineteenth-century. 3:30 p.m. Humanities Centre L-1. <http://www.humanities.ualberta.ca/english/publect.html>

**Qin Zhang “Mediation and Rural Governance in Early Twentieth-Century North China”** 3:30 p.m. 2-58 Tory Building.

**University Teaching Services (UTS)** Using Flashlight to Illuminate Student Experience Flashlight Online is a Web-based system for creating surveys, administering them online and analyzing their results. It can be used for program evaluation, accreditation studies, studies of the effectiveness of IT support services, quality assurance for distance learning programs, and studies by faculty of individual courses. An overview of this service that is available at no cost to University educators is presented. Presenter: Sandra Dowie, E-Learning Development Officer Please register for this session at [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts) 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. CAB 243.

**First Year Student Information Evening - Petroleum Engineering** The First Year Student Information Evening provides 1st year students a chance to interact with industry representatives, current students, recent graduates and faculty to find out more about the Petroleum Engineering program and career stream choices in Petroleum Engineering. 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 1-017 Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC).

**Picard Lecture in Health Law** “Tales of the Genome: Can we tell when patents foster or impede innovation?” Dr. Robert Cook Deegan Director, Centre for Genome Ethics, Law & Policy, Duke University. 5 - 6:30 p.m. Auditorium, Telus Centre. <http://www.law.ualberta.ca/centres/hli>

**To the World, With Love: A Celebration of the Creative Arts** “To the World, With Love” is a fundraising event for the Campus Food Bank and for scholarships for Arts Students. There will hors d’oeuvres and wine, and select art work will be available for silent auction. Art work will include poetry, short stories, photography, paintings, drawings, film, and more. Tickets are \$12 or \$10 with a food bank donation. 5 - 8:30 p.m. TIMMS Centre for the Arts. <http://www.ualberta.ca/~asa>

**Jones Memorial Lecture** “Raising the Score: The Lessons to be learned from Science about Deaf children’s reading and a challenge for the future.” Dr. Lynn McQuarrie, University of Alberta. The issue of literacy is one that transcends most of the other issues in the education of students who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. Whatever the specific goals of an educational program, the philosophy of communication, and specific placement, most individuals would agree that the ability to be able to read and write is a major goal of educational programs for these students. While the pendulum of instruction has swung back and forth several times, reading performance for deaf and hard of hearing children has remained quite stable, and unfortunately, extremely low. With so much attention focused on deaf children’s literacy - why are we not seeing progress? 7- 9:30 p.m. RM 2-115 Education North, Education Building. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/edpsychology/wccsd.cfm>

**Master of Music Recital** Master of Music Recital Meghan Bowen, organ. 8 p.m. Arts Building/ Convocation Hall.

## MAR 24 2006

**Assessment and Evaluation in Teaching and Learning** Assessment and evaluation have been described as a vehicle for educational improvement. What should guide our assessment of teaching and learning? What does effective practice in assessment look like? A panel of three experts from across our campus will discuss the principles of good assessment, student ratings of instruction, program evaluation, and more. Please join us for this hour and a half of information sharing. Panel moderator: Paul Sorenson, Vice Provost Information Technology Panel members: Dwight Harley, Studies in Medical Education; Dan Precht, AICT; and Stanley Varnhagen, Faculty of Extension. 12 - 1:30 p.m. TELUS Centre, Main Floor, Tiered Classroom. <http://www.learningshop.ualberta.ca/welcome.jsp>

**Distinguished Lecture Series** Distinguished Lecture entitled “Mining Multi-Dimensional Data in Cube Space” by Dr Raghu Ramakrishnan, Professor of Computer Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Please join us for coffee and cookies at 3 p.m., lecture to follow at 3:30 p.m. 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. CSC B-10. <http://www.cs.ualberta.ca/events/dls/>

**Broadus Lecture Series: Lecture 2: “Everyday Feminism: Frances Power Cobbe, Domestic Violence, and the London Echo”** What did it mean for Victorian feminism to have a feminist writing in the established serial press? Exploring the links between Victorian feminism and the established press, these two lectures open up our understanding of Victorian feminism and its political workings, urging us to reconsider what feminism looked like in the nineteenth-century. Reception to follow. 3:30 p.m. Humanities Centre L-1. <http://www.humanities.ualberta.ca/english/publect.html>

**Copper-Binding Proteins in Cytochrome**



March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

# The Color of Fear

a Lee Mun Wah film about racism

Tuesday, March 21, 2006

Lister Centre, Aurora Room

5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Admission: Free (light refreshments will be served)

Join us to watch the film and to participate in a discussion led by Satya Das, author and award-winning human rights advocate.



## GFC COMMITTEES:

### ACADEMIC AND SUPPORT STAFF NEEDED

The terms of office of a number of faculty and support staff members serving on General Faculties Council (GFC) Standing Committees and on committees and Appeal Boards to which GFC elects members will expire on June 30, 2006. The GFC Nominating Committee (NC) is seeking academic and support staff members to fill the following vacancies for terms normally 3 years in length, beginning July 1, 2006.

Committee	Staff Vacancies	Meeting Times
ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC): GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues.	TWO academic staff members (from Category A1.0) who are members of GFC ONE NASA member at-large (Category B1.1)	2:00 pm/2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays
CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC): Reviews Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Applicant Behaviour and Residence Community Standards.	ONE academic or support staff member (from Categories A1.0, A2.0, B1.1, B1.2)	9:30 am/last Thursday
COMMITTEE ON THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (CLE): Promotes excellence in teaching and optimal learning environment and provides for appropriate information resources to the University community.	TWO academic staff members (from Category A1.0), one of whom must be a member of GFC	2:00 pm/1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC): Recommends on planning and use of facilities, proposed buildings, use of land, parking and transportation.	THREE academic staff members (from Category A1.0) who are NOT from the Faculties of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics or Science as these Faculties have representation on FDC ONE support staff member (Category B1.0)	9:00 am/3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (UASC): Approves new awards for undergraduate students including selection and eligibility.	TWO academic staff members (from Categories A1.1, A1.5, A1.6)	4 times a year (Jan, Mar, June and Oct)
UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS (UTAC): Adjudicates the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Sessional Teaching, and the Teaching Unit Award.	ONE academic staff member (from Categories A1.1, A1.5 or A1.6) who is NOT from the Faculties of Education, Arts, Business or Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics as these Faculties have representation on UTAC	Normally 3 times a year (Oct, Mar and Apr)
PROGRAM REDUCTION AND DELETION REVIEW COMMITTEE (PRDRC): Reviews reorganization (reduction, deletion or transfer) of programs.	THREE academic staff members (from Category A1.0)	Scheduled as required
DEPARTMENT CHAIR SELECTION COMMITTEES: Members are chosen in rotation from a panel of 15 to serve on Department Chair selection committees.	FIVE academic staff members (from Categories A1.1, A1.5 or A1.6)	Constituted as Department Chair selection processes are initiated
SENATE: Links with the community and is an independent advisory body of community leaders.	TWO academic staff members (from Categories A1.1, A1.5 or A1.6) MUST be members of GFC	4 times a year
EXTENSION FACULTY COUNCIL: Represents University interests on the Faculty of Extension Council.	THREE academic staff members (from Category A1.0 exclusive of the Faculty of Extension)	Average of 6 times a year

Information about GFC committees is available on the University Secretariat website at <http://www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/>. For definitions of Categories of Staff, please go to the above-noted website and access the GFC Policy Manual, Section 5.1.4. All nominations, or expressions of interest, should be accompanied by a brief resume or biographical sketch and directed to Ms M Lewis, Secretary, GFC Nominating Committee, Room 2-5 University Hall (492-1938; [marlene.lewis@ualberta.ca](mailto:marlene.lewis@ualberta.ca)) by Friday, March 31, 2006.

For complete University of Alberta job listings visit:  
**[www.hrs.ualberta.ca/](http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca/)**

**Oxidase Assembly** Moira Glerum, Medical Genetics, University of Alberta is presenting a seminar on "Copper-Binding Proteins in Cytochrome Oxidase Assembly." 3:30 p.m. M-149 Biological Sciences Building. <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/>

**Etiquette workshop and Silent Auction for Bangladesh** This is a non-profit fundraiser for a women and children's hospital in rural Bangladesh. The event will feature a brief lesson in fine-dining etiquette, Bangladeshi dancers, a silent auction and three course meal. For tickets please contact Hannes, [jb17@ualberta.ca](mailto:jb17@ualberta.ca) 6:30 p.m. The Faculty Club. <http://www.ualberta.ca/~goldnkey/>

### MAR 25 2006

**Lethbridge Annual Alumni AGM and Dessert Reception** The University of Alberta Lethbridge Alumni Branch invites all alumni and their family and friends to the Lethbridge and District Annual AGM and Dessert Reception. Guest Speaker: Dr. Billy Streaan Associate Professor, University of Alberta. Certified Laughter Leader Details: 1:30 p.m. Lethbridge Lodge 320 Scenic Drive, Lethbridge, AB. Event admission, dessert bar, coffee & tea and program for only: \$10.00 per person For more information and to RSVP: Laurence Hoyer Ph: 403.381.4120 RSVP deadline March 17. NOTE: Payments may be accepted at the door; however, registration is required by March 17.

**Mixed Chorus Alumni Association Dinner/AGM/Spring Concert/Alumni Reception** Come and join the MCAA for the 62nd annual Spring Concert! Dinner, 5:00 p.m.; Annual General Meeting, 6:30 p.m.; Concert, 8 p.m. Alumni Reception with UAMC, 9:30 p.m. Francis Winspear Centre for Music Edmonton, AB.

**University Mixed Chorus** University Mixed Chorus 62nd Annual Concert with The U of A Handbell Ringers Robert de Frece, Director 8 p.m. Francis Winspear Centre for Music.

### MAR 26 2006

**University Symphony Orchestra with University of Alberta Concert Choir and Madrigal Singers** University Symphony Orchestra with University of Alberta Concert Choir and Madrigal Singers Michael Massey and Debra Cairns, Conductors Soloist: Po-Yuan Ku, saxophone Nanie (Song of Lamentation), Op 82; Gesang der Parzen (Song of the Fates): Johannes Brahms Saxophone Concerto: Henri Tomasi Symphony No 5: Ralph Vaughan-Williams 8:00 p.m. Francis Winspear Centre for Music.

### MAR 27 2006

**Edmonton Consular Ball Scholarship for International Studies** Awarded to graduate or third and fourth year undergraduate students who wish to undertake a summer research project in the area of International Studies. Students from all faculties are encouraged to apply. Two to three scholarships are awarded annually. Deadline for application: March 27, 2006 University of Alberta International. <http://www.international.ualberta.ca/>

**Tim Brooks, L.H. Thomas Lecture "The Art of Buying Art (and Not Buying Trash) in Ming China."** Reception to follow. 3 - 5 p.m. Tiered Classroom TELUS Centre for Professional Development.

**University Teaching Services (UTS)** Leading a Balanced Life. Many busy professors and graduate students struggle to achieve a balanced life. This session shows that the key aspect of balance is one of choice. Through experiential activities, we explore the power of perspectives and look at what clearly saying "yes" or "no" to various alternatives can mean. Presenter: Billy Streaan, Physical Education and Recreation Faculty Please register for this session at [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts). 3 - 5 p.m. CAB 243.

**Constitution Making in Fragile States** Karol Soltan will present a lecture entitled "Constitution Making in Fragile States" Sponsored by the Centre for Constitutional Studies 4 - 5:30 p.m. 237 Law Centre. [www.ualberta.ca/ccs](http://www.ualberta.ca/ccs)

**Recruitment Seminar** Dr. Daniel Barreda, Department of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania will present a seminar entitled "Phagocytosis: tracing the origins for regulatory mechanisms of innate and acquired immunity". Dr. Barreda is a candidate for the Assistant/Associate Professor position in Comparative Immunology in the Department of Biological Sciences. Hosted by Reuben Kaufman. 4 - 5 p.m. M 145 Biological Sciences Building. <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca>

### MAR 28 2006

**Dr Tim Brooks, UBC, LH Thomas Lecture, "Satire or Sedition? Collaborationist Cartoons in Japanese-Occupied"** 3- 5 p.m. Senate Chamber 326 Arts Building/Convocation Hall .

**Green Energy for Energy Security and Sustainable Development** Speaker X. Li Professor, University of Waterloo This presentation will be concerned with green energy research, including what is green energy, why green energy, and how

to achieve it. 3:30 p.m. 2-001 Natural Resources Engineering Facility, Markin/CNRL. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/mece/departmentseminars.cfm>

### MAR 29 2006

**PHS Grand Rounds** PHS Student's Association presents: Guest Speaker: Dr Davy Dhillon, "Of Doctors Without Borders", Department of Family Medicine, University of Calgary "Antiretroviral Therapy Programs for HIV in Conflict Zones." 12 - 1 p.m. Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building.

**Called by the bar: First steps to becoming a lawyer** Wondering if Law school might be your next career move? Consider these next steps: assessing your suitability for a career in Law, investigating how Law degrees can be used, choosing a Law school, writing the LSAT and more! Free of charge. Drop into CaPS office, 2-100 SUB. 12:05 - 12:50 p.m. <http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>

**Hear's to Your Health** Hear's to Your Health. Marina Hoover, cello. Patricia Tao, piano. Sonata No. 3 in A Major for Cello and Piano, Op. 69: Beethoven. Sonata for Cello and Piano: Strauss. 5 p.m. Foyer, Snell Auditorium Health Sciences Complex, W.C. Mackenzie .

**University Teaching Services (UTS)** PowerPoint Animations Animations can enhance or detract from your message. This hands-on session works with the possibilities for animation in a PowerPoint presentation and cautions on the problems associated with adding animation just because you can! Presenter:Kevin Moffitt, Technology Training Centre Limited computer workstations available; first registered, first seated. Please register for this session at [www.ualberta.ca/~uts](http://www.ualberta.ca/~uts) 5 - 6 p.m. Technology Training Centre, lower level of Cameron Library.

**VIKING SAGAS AND THE SETTLEMENT OF ICELAND** The 2006 Richard Frucht Memorial Lectures Series will feature: Dr. Phillip Walker, University of California, Santa Barbara. Viking sagas and the settlement of Iceland: Archaeological Evidence from the Mosfell Valley. 7 - 8 p.m. Theatre 12 Tory Lecture Theatre Complex. [arts.ualberta.ca/~agas/frucht2006.html](http://arts.ualberta.ca/~agas/frucht2006.html)

**An Evening with Michael Franti** An extended evening with Michael Franti featuring Premier Screening of the documentary "I Know I'm Not Alone," followed by a Q & A session with Michael and an extended solo acoustic performance. 8 p.m. Myer Horowitz Theatre. <http://www.iknowimnotalone.com>.

### MAR 30 2006

**Creative Works Reading by Steven Heighton** Steven Heighton is the author, most recently, of a novel, *Afterlands*, which has just appeared in Canada and will follow in the USA, Britain, Australia, Germany, and the Netherlands in 2006. He has also published *The Shadow Boxer*, which was a Publishers' Weekly Book of the Year for 2002, appearing in the USA with Houghton Mifflin and in Britain with Granta. His other fiction books are *Flight Paths of the Emperor* and *On earth as it is*, and his poetry collections include *The Ecstasy of Skeptics* and *The Address Book*. His work is translated into nine languages, has been internationally anthologised, and has been nominated for the Governor General's Award, the Trillium Award, a Pushcart Prize, the Journey Prize, and Britain's W.H. Smith Award (best book of the year). He has also won gold medals for fiction and for poetry in the National Magazine Awards. He lives with his family in Kingston, Ontario. 3:30 p.m. HC L-3. <http://www.humanities.ualberta.ca/english>

**Karla Pollmann (University of St. Andrews) "Virtue, Vice and Politics in Ammianus Marcellinus' Obituaries on the Emperors"** Co-sponsored with Religious Studies 3:30 p.m. 2-58 Tory Building.

### MAR 30 - APR 8 2006

**Studio Theatre presents Scenes from an Execution by Howard Barker** Howard Barker's *Scenes From An Execution* depicts a brilliant and defiant female artist who is commissioned by the state to create a painting to commemorate a momentous military battle. The play fearlessly explores themes of power, sexuality, and human motivation, overflowing with rich language, challenging ideas, beauty, history, violence and an unusual sense of humour. Advance tickets available through TIX on the Square, 420-1757 or online at [www.tixonthesquare.ca](http://www.tixonthesquare.ca) . Walk-up tickets available at the Timms Centre Box Office one hour prior to curtain, for that day's performance only. No performance Sunday, April 2, 2006. 8 p.m. Timms Centre for the Arts. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/drama/studiotheatre.cfm>

### MAR 31 2006

**17th Annual Warren Kalbach Conference** A annual conference on population issues held at the University of Alberta. This year's theme focuses on Aging in Canadian Society. Tory Breezeway #2. <http://www.ualberta.ca/PRL>

**Nonhomologous recombination and catalyt-**



**ic RNAs** Peter Unrau, Assistant Professor, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Simon Fraser University is presenting a seminar on "Nonhomologous recombination and catalytic RNAs". 3:30 p.m. M-149 Biological Sciences Building. <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/>

**Nonhomologous recombination and catalytic RNAs** Peter Unrau, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Simon Fraser University is presenting a seminar on "Nonhomologous recombination and catalytic RNAs." 3:30 p.m. M-149 Biological Sciences Building. <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/>

**Trophy Taking: A Bioarchaeological Perspective on the History of Ritualized Violence** The 2006 Richard Frucht Memorial Lectures Series will feature: Dr. Phillip Walker, University of California, Santa Barbara 4 - 5 p.m. Tory Breezeway 1 (TB-W1). <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~agas/frucht2006.html>

#### APR 2 - 5 2006

**12th Annual Qualitative Health Research Conference** At this conference, we will consider ways in which qualitative health research provides a voice of marginalized and vulnerable populations, challenges the status quo, and uncovers new solutions to issues in health and health care. Please see <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/iqim/QHR2006.cfm> for more information on the conference. The Westin Hotel, Edmonton.

#### APR 3 2006

**Curriculum & Pedagogy Institute Guest Lecture** Curriculum & Pedagogy Institute presents: Dr Shuying (Sean) Li, Center for Learning Study and School Partnership, Hong Kong Institute of Education Title: Eastern Lesson Studies and Enhancement of Classroom Teaching and Learning All are welcome! Refreshments will be provided. 12 p.m. 358/366 Education South Education Centre. <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/education/pdfs/CPInWinter2006rev.pdf>

**School beginnings; Political beginnings; Research beginnings: A personal story of working in teacher education** Dr. Helen May is Head of the Faculty of Education at the University of Otago in New Zealand. A long time writer in the field, she has played an active part in the campaign for early childhood education over the last twenty years, and played a leading role in curriculum development and policy formation. Her books include Politics in the Playground: The World of Early Childhood in Postwar New Zealand, Minding Children, Managing Men, and School Beginnings: A Nineteenth Century Colonial Story. 12- 1 p.m. 633 Education South.

#### APR 4 2006

**Hope or hype? - Do we need genetically modified food to feed the world?** AFNS seminar series charting the future of agriculture presents: Dr. Channapatna S. Prakash, Director Center for Plant Biotechnology Research & Professor in Plant Molecular Genetics, Tuskegee University, Alabama, USA. Refreshments and Cash Bar will follow event. This event is open to the public! 4 - 5 p.m. Telus Centre lecture theatre, rm 150.

#### APR 5 2006

**Edmonton Regional Alumni & Friends Reception for Civil & Environmental Engineers** Join other Edmonton-area University of Alberta Engineering alumni and friends of the Faculty as we pay tribute to all of you who carry on the great

tradition of the U of A Engineer. 7 - 9 p.m. Solarium Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC). <http://www.engineering.ualberta.ca/alumni>

#### APR 6 2006

**D.B. Robinson Distinguished Speaker Series, featuring Michael Tsapatsis** Using theory and simulation to design "smart" polymeric systems. Michael Tsapatsis, University of Minnesota. Michael Tsapatsis joined the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science at the University of Minnesota in September 2003. He received an Engineering Diploma (1988) from The University of Patras, Greece, and MS (1991) and Ph.D. (1994) degrees from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) working with G.R. Gavalas. He was a post-doctoral Fellow with M.E. Davis at Caltech (1993/94). Before joining the University of Minnesota he spent nine years as a faculty member in the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He is the recipient of a David and Lucile Packard Foundation Fellowship, a National Science Foundation CAREER Award, and a Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award. His research interests include development of oriented zeolite films and molecular sieve/polymer nanocomposites for membrane applications. 3:30 - 4:20 p.m. Refreshments will be available at 3:10 p.m. outside the room E1-007 Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex (ETLC).

**Agape Learning Over Lunch: Social Justice Video Series** AGAPE - A Sex, Sexual, and Gender Differences in Education and Culture Focus Group in the Faculty of Education, University of Alberta 2005 - 2006 Learning Over Lunch: Social Justice Video Series (Free Admission) Today's Video Presentation: "Hate.com: Extremists on the Internet." A gritty documentary that explores the individuals behind websites opposed to non-whites, gays, new immigrants, and a variety of other targets. These hate groups build websites not only for the dissemination of intolerance, but also for the purposes of recruitment. In their own words, these extremists talk about their doctrines, tactics, and goals. Contains some explicit language and imagery. Guest Discussant: Dr. Alvin Schrader, School of Library & Information Studies. If you have a question about Agape or the Social Justice Video Series, please email Dr. André P. Grace at [andre.grace@ualberta.ca](mailto:andre.grace@ualberta.ca) or Kris Wells at [kwells@ualberta.ca](mailto:kwells@ualberta.ca) or Contact the Agape Project Office at 492-0772 or visit us @ 5-181K in the Education North Building. 12 - 1 p.m. 7-102 Education North Education Centre. [http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/education/pdfs/agape2005\\_2.pdf](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/education/pdfs/agape2005_2.pdf)

**Norman Ingram (Concordia University)** "Selbstmord or Euthanasia: the Ligue des droits de l'homme and the Nazis after the fall of France, 1940" 3:30 p.m. 2-58 Tory Building.

**Guest Speaker** Dr. Miguel Valvano Canada Research Chair in Infectious Diseases and Microbial Pathogenesis Professor and Department Chair Microbiology and Immunology University of Western Ontario. Burkholderia cenocepacia: an opportunistic bacterium that fools macrophages. 4 - 5 p.m. Classroom F - 2J4.02 WMC. <http://www.ualberta.ca/cellbiology>

#### APR 7 2006

**Internal affair: Iron regulation by a small RNA** Eric Massé, Department of Biochemistry, University of Sherbrooke is presenting a seminar on "Internal affair: Iron regulation by a small RNA" in M-149 Biological Sciences Building, 3:00 p.m. <http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/courses/genet605/index.php?Page=3700>

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**GREENVIEW FURNISHED SABBATICAL HOME**, cul-de-sac location. 3 bdrms on main and fully finished basement with artist's studio, two full baths. Peaceful and beautiful backyard. Immediate, long term lease available. Call Janet Fraser 441-6441 Gordon W.R. King & Assoc. Real Estate Corp

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## Review of the Vice-President (Finance and Administration): Input from the Community

The first term review for Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark is currently underway. Vice-President Clark has advised President Indira Samarasekera that she would like to stand for a second term of office. In consultation with the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr. Jim Edwards, President Samarasekera has therefore asked that an Advisory Review Committee for Vice-President (Finance and Administration) be struck.

The Advisory Review Committee believes it is essential for members of the University community to have an opportunity to contribute to the review process. Individuals are welcome to express their views on priorities of the Vice-President (Finance and Administration); including current issues, leadership, and the future direction of the Office of Vice-President (Finance and Administration). An anonymized summary of the feedback will be provided to Vice-President Clark during the review process. The Committee invites you to submit your comments and/or suggestions, in confidence, by 4:30 pm, March 31, 2006 to:

President Indira Samarasekera  
c/o Marcia Lang, Secretary to the Advisory Review Committee  
3-1 University Hall  
University of Alberta, T6G 2J9  
phone: (780) 492-4383  
email: [marcia.lang@ualberta.ca](mailto:marcia.lang@ualberta.ca)  
fax: (780) 492-9265

*Please note that the membership of the Advisory Review Committee will confirmed by March 30, 2006 and posted on the President's website at [www.president.ualberta.ca](http://www.president.ualberta.ca), along with the position description for the Vice-President (Finance and Administration).*

2000 SQ. FT. 4 BEDROOM – beautifully renovated home in Blue Quill-southwest Edmonton. Double-attached garage, large yard, great family neighbourhood, close to all shopping conveniences, excellent schools (French immersion) close by, on direct bus route to U of A. Available May 1, 2006 (non-smoking) Rent 1,300 per month, POU. Call Darlene or Jeff at 434-1075 or 242-1076.

### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SALE

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### ACCOMMODATIONS WANTED

FORMER UOFA GRADUATE STUDENT seeks housesit for July and August 2006 to research in Edmonton. Will care for pets or plants. Local references can be provided. Please contact [svint@stfx.ca](mailto:svint@stfx.ca).

### MISCELLANEOUS

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THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) meet Sundays at 10:30 a.m. at L'Arche, 7708-83 Street, Edmonton. Visitors Welcome. Visit <http://www.edmontonquakers.org> for more information.

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## positions

*The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity of employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons. With regard to teaching positions: All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. For complete U of A job listings visit [www.hrs.ualberta.ca](http://www.hrs.ualberta.ca).*

### INTERNAL AUDITOR INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

The University of Alberta is seeking a talented, self-motivated professional to contribute to the delivery of Internal Audit Service's mission of providing independent, objective assurance and consulting services. Internal Audit Services helps the university accomplish its objectives by employing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes.

Reporting to the Director, the auditor will be responsible for planning and executing financial and operational audits across the institution. This includes working independently and with peers as well as managing co-sourced expertise. Internal Auditors also investigate allegations of frauds or irregularities and contribute to setting the strategic direction for the audit function.

Partnering with management to promote continuous improvement will require the auditor to use excellent business acumen, communication, analysis, and negotiation skills. The ideal candidate will:

- Hold a university degree and a relevant accounting designation CA/CMA/CGA or Certified Internal Audit (CIA).
- Look to utilize what they have learned in six to eight years of experience in an internal audit or related role in a complex organization. This includes excellent planning, organizational and interpersonal skills.
- Possess the ability to think strategically and to provide leadership in the areas of risk management and internal control, based on strong working knowledge of applicable frameworks (e.g. COSO and CoBIT).
- Be proficient in the use of desktop computing and related software, as well as the use of computer assisted audit techniques (experience with ACL preferred).
- Enjoy the challenge of keeping abreast of auditing trends and promoting the profession through initiative and high-quality work.
- Have, preferably, post-secondary or public sector experience supplemented with an audit specialization such as CISA or CFE.

The University offers a comprehensive salary and benefits package. This is a full-time continuing Administrative/Professional Officer position with a salary range of \$56,212 - \$89,000 per annum.

Internal Audit is committed to supporting employee health and wellness, and will consider candidates who want to work less than full time as part of selection process; Travel is very limited.

Review of applications will commence March 31, 2006, and will continue until the position is filled. More information about Internal Audit Services is available on our website: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/internalaudit/>

Applications should be submitted, in confidence, to:  
Mary Persson, Internal Audit Service  
307 Campus Tower, 8625-112 Street

University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 0H1  
E-mail: [mary.persson@ualberta.ca](mailto:mary.persson@ualberta.ca)

### BIostatistical ANALYST THE CANADIAN VIGOUR CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The Canadian VIGOUR Center at the University of Alberta is seeking applications for the post of a biostatistical analyst. The successful candidate should be able to work with large administrative and clinical trial databases and conduct statistical analyses to address clinical issues in consultation and collaboration with the centre's senior researchers. The candidate must have a Master's degree supplemented by strong training in statistical methods (such as logistic regression analysis and survival analysis). The candidate must be familiar with SAS and SPSS statistical packages and have proficiency in SAS and other statistical packages. Interested candidates should send a CV to Padma Kaul, 7226 Aberhart Ctr.1 or email [pkaul@ualberta.ca](mailto:pkaul@ualberta.ca).

### RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, LAB-ON-CHIP BIOTECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Our laboratory has a position available in a project of integrating life science and molecular biology protocols onto microfabricated devices. Our primary goal is the development of medical diagnostics. We seek a person with a PhD in an experimental field in the life sciences, natural sciences or engineering. Anyone with experience with the conventional techniques described below, and with an interest in their miniaturization, is a suitable candidate for the position.

This multi-year project is a vibrant collaboration between labs in the Faculties of Engineering and Medicine & Dentistry. The project involves the transfer of conventional life science protocols to microfluidic ("lab on a chip") devices. Most of this activity will take place in a laboratory that is jointly-operated by life science and engineering researchers. The position requires:

- A demonstrated ability to troubleshoot and think critically in an experimental environment.
- Good communication/interpersonal skills.
- The ability to work in a diverse interdisciplinary environment.
- Demonstrated experimental experience in biochemistry, biophysics, analytical chemistry or molecular biology, particularly in electrophoretic or other separation methods or in the development or troubleshooting of assays (chemical or biological).
- Demonstrated ability to productively direct one's own research, as well as that of others.

Applicants will have a PhD with a demonstrated record of productivity in an experimental area. The successful candidate will be a junior investigator and will participate fully in research and related

## Fulbright Public Lecture



Dr. Michael Broadway, a distinguished scholar visiting the Department of Rural Economy during the period January to April is the recipient of a prestigious Canada-US Fulbright Award at the University of Alberta. Dr. Broadway plans to examine the role of mad cow

disease in the economic and social life in Alberta. He will present a lecture titled:

*"Beefpacking and Community Change: A Case Study of Brooks, Alberta"*

Thursday, March 23, 2006  
4:00 P.M.

Room 134 Telus Centre  
Reception to Follow

If you are unable to attend the seminar please note it will be webcast at <http://www.re.ualberta.ca/webcast/>



Sponsored by the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics and the Department of Rural Economy.



scholarly activities. He/she will take a leadership role, work closely with the research team, mentor graduate students and manage long-term research projects to completion.

In order to apply, please send a cover letter and a CV that includes: 1) a list of research & development projects participated in, 2) a list of publications (please describe your role in each), and 3) the names and contact information of at least three references.

Please send these via email to:

Professor Chris Backhouse, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
chrisb@ualberta.ca with a carbon copy (cc) to Krista@ece.ualberta.ca

Please also use the subject line of "ATTN: RA - Integration Position"

In case of difficulty in communications, please contact Krista at +1 (780) 492-8336.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Salary will be commensurate with experience. All applications will be acknowledged.

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

The University of Alberta Libraries (www.library.ualberta.ca), Canada's second largest ARL library, and one of Canada's most technologically advanced research libraries seeks outstanding candidates for the position of Associate Director, Information Technology Resources and Services. The Associate Director will contribute personal vision and energy to ensuring that the Libraries form an active part of the University's aspirations for regional, national and international recognition. The incumbent will provide leadership in the vision, development and management of the Libraries' next-generation digital services environment and oversee the Information Technology Resources and Services Unit, including:

Providing leadership through the identification of technology-based applications that sup-

port improvements to library services and staff productivity and through participation in the Senior Administrative Team. Effectively planning, budgeting and allocating resources and implementing technology and applications in support of the vision, mission and goals of the Libraries, the Learning Services portfolio and the University. Supervising the Information Technology Resources and Services staff, consisting of five librarians responsible for operations, web development, digital initiatives, e-resources and licensing; and twenty technical/support and project staff. Ensuring that the Libraries' and Learning Services' interests are represented on campus-wide committees and activities related to technology.

Contributing to the highly collaborative environment within the province, the region and the nation.

The ideal candidate will have an accredited degree in library science, a minimum of seven years of progressive experience, including work in library systems and/or technology, and a successful track record of management/supervisory experience. We expect demonstrated success in facilitating and managing technology in research libraries and a strong understanding of technical applications. We expect a strong communicator with an avid interest in pursuing new directions in digital library services and in fostering innovation and team building.

This tenure-track position is classified at the Librarian 3 level with a current salary range of \$74,754-118,722. Librarians at the University of Alberta have academic status and participate in a generous benefits program. Closing date for applications is April 30, 2006.

To apply, please mail, fax, or e-mail your letter of application, résumé, and the names and addresses of three referees to:

Karen Adams  
Director of Library Services and Information Resources  
Cameron Library  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2J8  
Fax: (780) 492-8302  
Email: karen.adams@ualberta.ca

Vanessa Hughes at 492-9416 or vanessa.hughes@exr.ualberta.ca.

## SCOTIABANK-AUCC AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONALIZATION

University of Alberta International (UAI) would like to encourage University of Alberta applications for the 2006 Scotiabank-AUCC Awards for Excellence in Internationalization. This prestigious awards program honours excellent initiatives Canadian universities have put in place to integrate an international dimension into teaching, research and community service.

This year's program will focus on initiatives that prepare students for a global future, with up to four initiatives selected to receive awards. Recipients will be celebrated at a national ceremony held in conjunction with AUCC's biannual meeting in October 2006, in a fall 2006 issue of AUCC's news magazine University Affairs, and at a national workshop on preparing students for a global future open to senior university administrators from across the country in spring 2007.

The application deadline for the awards program is April 21, 2006, but applicants must contact UAI by April 12, 2006 to coordinate required institutional signatures prior to submission. Competition details can be found in the program guidelines on the AUCC web site at www.aucc.ca/programs/index\_e.html. Further questions regarding U of A submissions can be directed to Juli Betke at 492-2958 or juli.betke@ualberta.ca

## EDMONTON CONSULAR BALL SCHOLARSHIP FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

The Edmonton Consular Ball Scholarship in International Studies was established in 1980 with funds generated by the Edmonton Consular Ball, which was held to mark the 75th anniversary of the province of Alberta. In each of the succeeding years, the Consular Corps contributed proceeds from the annual ball to the university for the scholarship. The value of this scholarship is \$1,000 plus travel expenses of \$1,000-\$1,500. For more information, e-mail ConsularBall@international.ualberta.ca, or phone 780-492-5840. Application deadline is March 27, 2006.

# notices

Please send notices attention Folio, 6th floor General Services building, University of Alberta, T6G 2H1 or e-mail public.affairs@ualberta.ca. Notices should be received by 12 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication.

## UNIVERSITY PROFESSORSHIPS

Call For Nominations

The Selection Committee for University Professorships is pleased to invite nominations for the Spring 2006 competition. The title of University Professor is the highest honour this University can bestow on a member of its academic staff and is granted only to those individuals who have achieved outstanding distinction in each of the areas of scholarly research, teaching, service to the University and the community-at-large. An integral component to be expected of such distinguished performance is a breadth of scholarly interest and achievement that extends beyond the normal departmental and arbitrary disciplinary boundaries. Thus, the University Professor is a member of the staff whose scholarly works merit, or have merited, national or international attention; whose teaching ability is widely known and respected by colleagues and students alike as exceptional; and who has earned from the community a regard which favours both the individual and the University.

Any individual appointed to a full-time academic position without term at the University may be appointed a University Professor. Any member or members of the academic staff of the University may nominate a candidate with the candidate's permission.

Formal nominations, including supporting documents, should be submitted to Carl Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), 2-10 University Hall, by 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 3, 2006.

Detailed criteria for nominations may be obtained from the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), telephone 492-2280.

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CENTENARY 2008

With planning now underway for the University of Alberta's centenary celebrations in 2008, the campus community is invited to submit proposals for funding consideration for centenary celebration initiatives. Application deadline is March 31, 2006. Please note: initiatives must take place between Jan. 1, 2008 - Dec. 31, 2008.

For guidelines and application form please go to: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/2008/callfor-proposals.cfm>

or contact centenary project administrator

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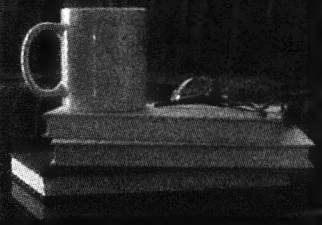
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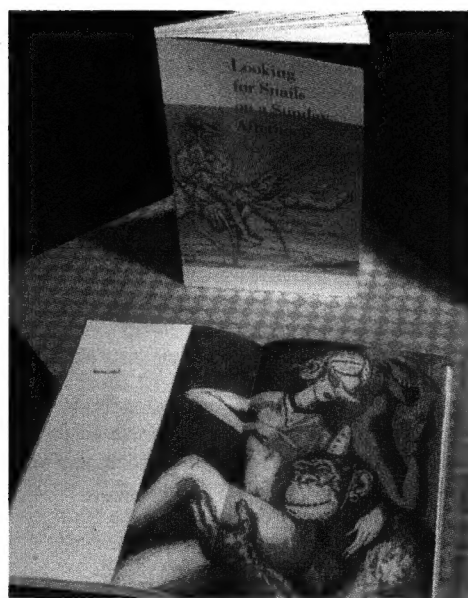
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# > between the covers

► Author/illustrator Rudolf Kurz earned honourable mention in the pictorial category for *Looking for Snails on a Sunday Afternoon: Thirty-six Etchings and Three Stories*.



▼ *Folk Furniture of Canada's Dukhobors, Hutterites, Mennonites and Ukrainians* earned top honours from the Alcuin Society in the pictorial category.

## Annual awards reveal what makes books tick

By Richard Cairney

You pick up a coffee-table book about a seemingly mundane subject: Dukhobor furniture. And you can't put it down – it's strangely riveting. The photographs are stunning and the text reveals fascinating cultural influences behind the furniture's designs. Who knew you were so interested in Dukhobor furniture?

Chances are you weren't, but the book's design was inviting enough that you were drawn in, invited to thumb through the pages to gaze at the photos, to read the captions and then an entire chapter.

The book in question is the University of Alberta Press' *Folk Furniture of Canada's Dukhobors, Hutterites, Mennonites and Ukrainians*, one of many Alcuin Award winners on display at the FAB Gallery until March 18. Designed by U of A Press designer Alan Brownoff, *Folk Furniture* was awarded first place in the pictorial category.

Sue Colberg, a professor and co-ordinator of communication design in the Department of Art and Design served as one of three Alcuin Society judges. Brownoff, she says,

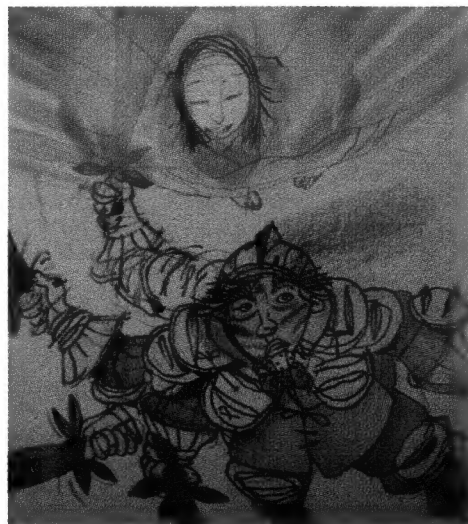
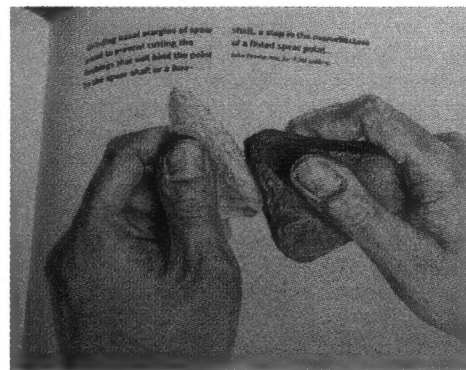
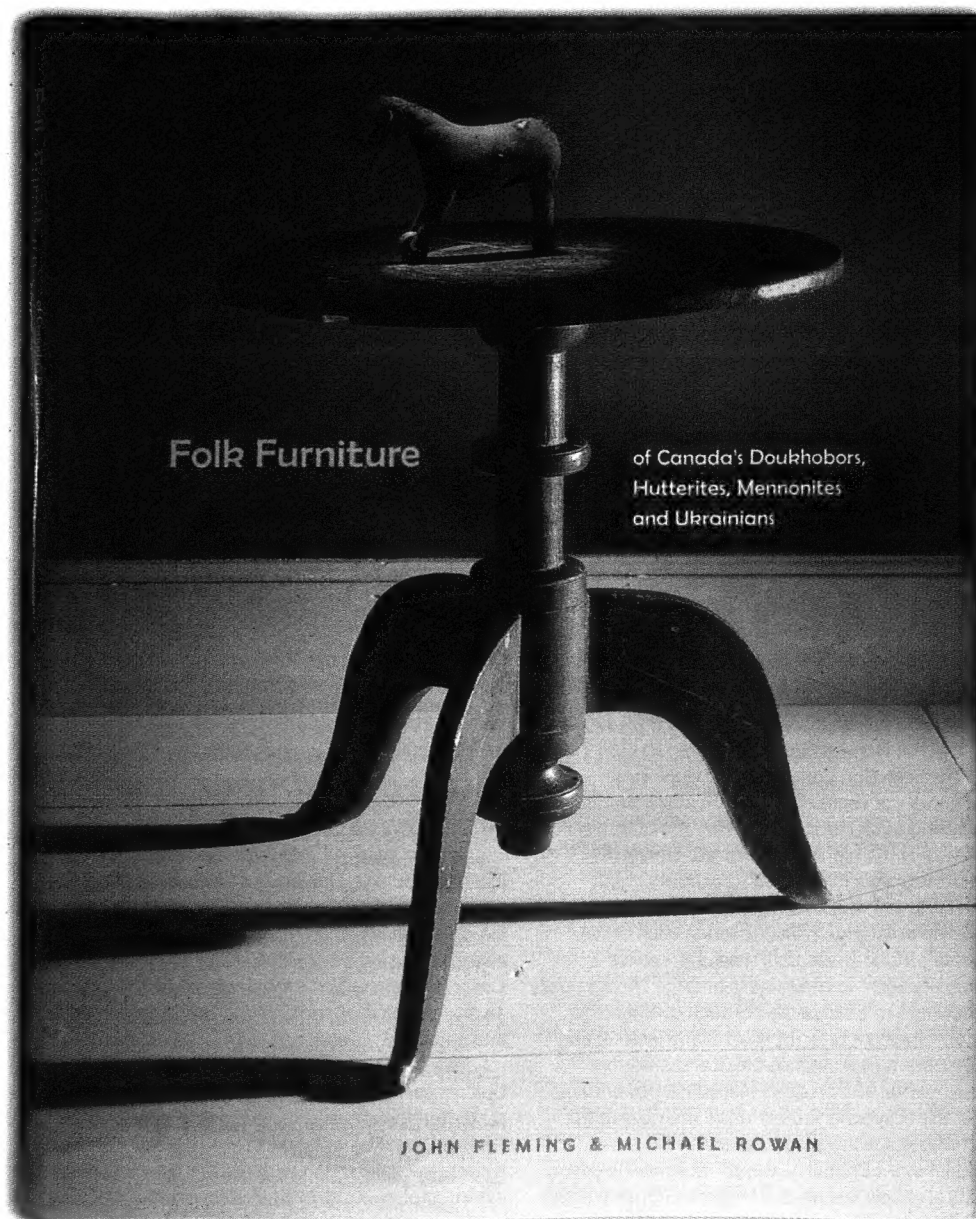
did an excellent job in designing the book, previously featured in *Folio*.

"He created an environment for those photos that lets the furniture come to the fore," she said. "It is designed in an understated way . . . the typography and layout is quiet and humble – I want to say it's like the furniture itself."

Yet readers won't be putting the book down to discuss its design elements.

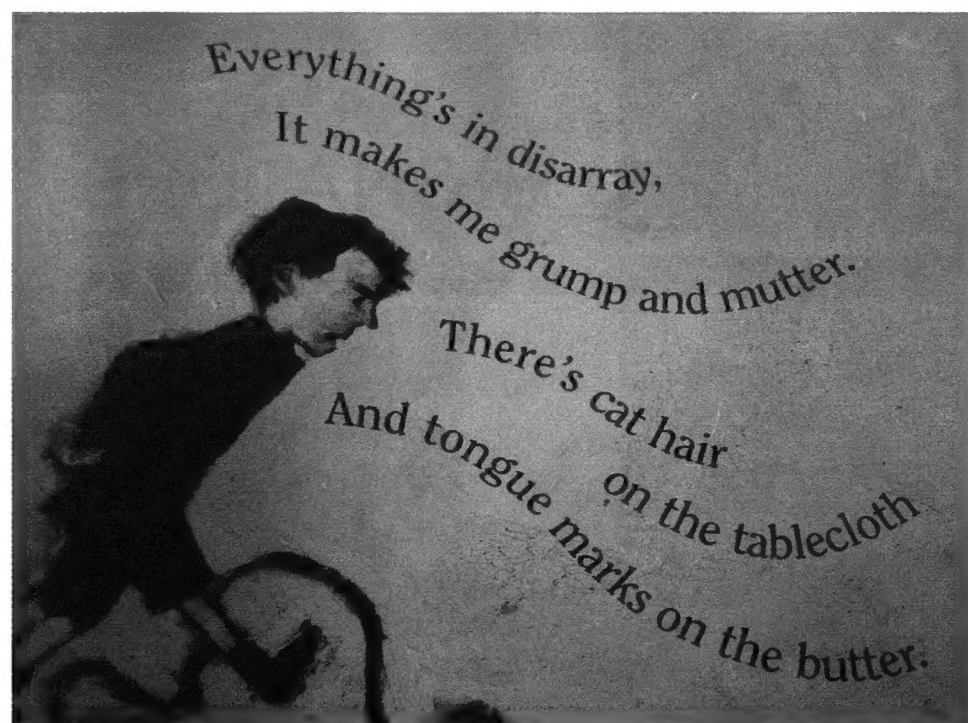
"If a design is extremely well done you will notice the subject matter and not the book design," Colberg said.

Colberg and fellow judges Val Speidel, a Vancouver book designer, and Andrew Steeves, co-owner, senior editor and typographer with Gaspereau Press, spent one "very, very, very long day" reviewing entries into the annual national book design competition. The Alcuin Society aims to promote a wider appreciation of book design and production, and is named after Alcuin of York. He served as Charlemagne's minister of culture, worked to preserve ancient texts and contributed to the development of the lower-case alphabet. ■

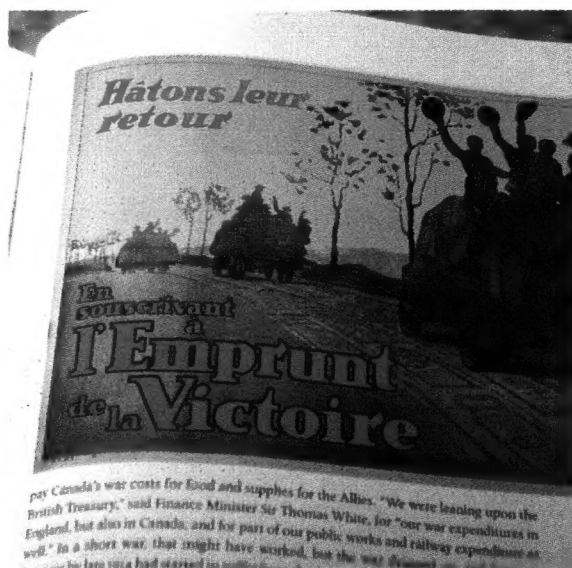


▲ *Journey to the Ice Age* delivers its content in a clean style.

► Detail from a Stephane Joris illustration in the Lewis Carroll classic *Jabberwocky*.



▲ Design by Elisa Gutierrez of Norm Hacky's story *When Cats go Wrong* (illustration by Cynthia Nugent) took second in the Children's category.



► *Hell's Corner – An illustrated History of Canada's Great Wars* looks at design while being judged favourably for its own design, taking first place in the nonfiction illustrated category.

# folio back page